

Hafa Adai!

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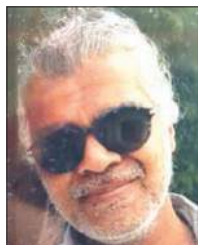
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75¢

Assistant public defender missing

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant public defender Jamal A. Saleh has been reported missing since Tuesday morning from his residence in Chalan Santa Lourdes, Asteo.



Saleh

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong described Saleh as 49, an Arab/native Indian, about 200 lbs, and has long gray hair.

Tarkong said that

on Tuesday at 11:36am, police responded to a complaint about a missing person in Asteo.

Tarkong said police learned from

a witness that her friend, Saleh, is missing.

At 1:30am that same day, Tuesday,

See MISSING on Page 4

Torres on GAO: 'Findings are vital'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres considers vital the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Public Debt Outlook report on the U.S. territories.

In an Aug. 16, 2017 letter for comments from the Commonwealth gov-

ernment, Torres said the findings of the report were "vital to showcasing the ongoing progress that the CNMI has made toward its public debts."

Torres added that though the economy was doing well, there is still a "vast need for improvement."

Released last Tuesday evening, the

See TORRES on Page 4

MANUAL AUDIT FINDS:

Retirement Fund overpaid retiree \$300K

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Settlement Fund conducted a manual

audit of all of the underpayment and overpayment member accounts identified and found out that there were 131 members who received

» 130 others got overpayment

a total of \$421,599 in overpayment, including one who got \$300,000.

Settlement Fund in-house counsel Nicole Torres said according to the

See RETIREMENT on Page 4



RED RIBBON WEEK

The students of Garapan Elementary School pose for a photo with their red ribbons during the Red Ribbon Campaign proclamation signing yesterday at Garapan Elementary School. The campaign promotes healthy, drug-free living through various education, prevention, and outreach programs.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Dynasty Holiday at the China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE) 2017 in Guangzhou.

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NATION

President Donald Trump congratulated Puerto Rico on Tuesday for escaping the higher death toll of "a real catastrophe like Katrina."

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LIFE & STYLE

Country star Jason Aldean is cancelling three upcoming tour dates after a mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas.

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Local

Demapan announces intent to run for delegate

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) has expressed his intent through a press conference yesterday to run for the position of the CNMI's non-voting representative to U.S. Congress in the 2018 general elections.

Following the press conference, Demapan also immediately submitted to former representative and current acting

president of the Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association Felicidad Ogumoro his letter of intent to run for CNMI delegate, the position currently held by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan declined to provide comments as of publication.

Currently, the Republicans hold a majority of the seats in U.S. Congress. Demapan cited the success of American

Samoa Delegate Amata Coleman Radewagen, who is also the only territory representative that is Republican.

"In the CNMI, we have the same thing," he said, adding that the House of Representatives and the Senate both have a majority of Republican officials.

"The importance of this is as a Republican member of the U.S. Congress working with a majority of Republican White House, the opportunities are

greater. The opportunities to bring maximum benefits to the people of the Commonwealth are greater," he said, citing Radewagen.

"In two terms, [Radewagen] has done more for American Samoa than other delegates of the territories that belong to the opposition party."

Demapan added that he has been thinking of running for about a year.

"It pretty much dated back



ERWIN ENCINARES

GOP CNMI acting president Felicidad Ogumoro, left, accepts Rep. Angel Demapan's (R-Saipan) letter of intent to run for CNMI delegate position at the 2018 general elections.

to the point last year when we figured that our successful, growing economy was severely being threatened by a federal policy that we believe was not conducive to the welfare of the Commonwealth," he said, without specifying the exact federal policy.

According to Demapan, some federal policies implemented at a larger scale are not "sound to be implemented here."

He added that many of his concerns are not only the shortage of labor workforce plaguing the CNMI, but also

the Covenant.

"[The Covenant] was forged in the principle that the U.S. would help us thrive as a people; as a U.S. citizenry here, although detached," he said, adding that the Covenant added such mechanisms that he believes is going in "the other direction."

Ogumoro yesterday announced that the CNMI GOP board would be meeting today, from 10am to 11am, to take action on Demapan's letter of intent. She did not specify where the meeting would be held.

2 hotel projects on Saipan in the works

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board has approved two hotel projects on Saipan during its board meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last Thursday.

Haohe, LLC's application is to rezone from village commercial to tourist resort nine lots in San Jose/Oleai. The company wants to build a hotel condominium development in the area.

Haohe, LLC sought rezoning of the area because it intends to construct the hotel condominium over the height limit of 58 feet within the village commercial zoning district.

The development is in partnership with the family who owns the land that is headed by businessman David Sablan.

According to Sablan, with the boom of tourism in the CNMI, booking for hotel accommodation on Saipan is getting harder.

"The other day, I tried to ask for a room in one of the hotels. I couldn't get one because all the hotels are full. This defi-

nitely tells me that the growth of tourism is robust in this area," he said.

"So we need an area where we can develop a resort where the people of the CNMI, particularly of Saipan, can enjoy this new addition that is coming up," Sablan added.

Board member Joe Ayuyu Jr. reminded the developer to make sure that they provide ample parking spaces for the guests and employees of the hotel development as parking is a growing problem on Saipan.

The second project is a conditional use application made by Sheng Yuan International, Inc. for the reconstruction, renovation, and operations of the mothballed Airport Castle Hotel.

The corporation proposed to occupy an existing seven-storey structure to operate the Airport Castle Hotel. It will have 73 rooms and 154 parking spaces. This property is located at Airport Road.

Richard Shen Yuan, owner of Shen Yuan International Inc., has moved his entire fam-

See **HOTEL** on Page 4

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DPL wants community input on public land use



BEA CABRERA

Comprehensive Land Use Plan project manager Roy Reyes speaks at the general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the Saipan World Resort.

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Land is identifying public lands in the CNMI and seeking the public's opinion on how to utilize these lands based on the Comprehensive Land Use study currently being conducted by civil engineer and project manager Roy Reyes from SSFM CNMI, LLC.

Speaking at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general meeting yesterday, Reyes shared updates to the business community on where his team is now in terms of collating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan together.

"What we are doing is collecting a lot of information and looking at existing legislations that are currently being proposed that affect public land use. We are looking at seeking comments from the general public, business community, and basically since this involves public land everyone is a stakeholder. We are trying to reach as much people as we can to get some feedback on how to best put this study together," he said.

According to Reyes, the

Comprehensive Land Use study aims to so have an inventory of public and private lands, their current statuses and determine if current GIS (geographic information system) mapping system and software is adequate.

Reyes added that the study also aims to understand and report current statutes, regulations, public outreach and intergovernmental coordination, analyze current economics, population, demographics, sociology-economic status and trends, and forecast future land requirements over a 10-year build-out.

"We are looking at the entire CNMI that is why we are also looking at the Northern Islands which I understand is 100 percent public land. We are hearing desires of putting homesteads out there and other concerns of developing a marina and sports. We are actually planning a trip to the Northern Islands depending on the weather," he said.

The timeframe of completing the plan is from September this year to September 2018. Public participation is encouraged through public hearings, public comments, and stakeholder surveys.

"We started reaching out

to the public with our public hearings which is our data collection phase starting Sept. 18. We are scheduled to get another public hearing in March next year. Prior to that meeting, we intend to have a public use draft already that everyone can have the chance to review and hopefully provide more feedback," Reyes said.

"What we don't want to do come March is we don't want to present a plan that everyone says that's not what we want that's why we

are trying our best to reach out, get comments to make sure when we prepare the draft, we are going to put time and effort into it and write a draft that nobody wants," he added.

Reyes said they had a meeting with individual stakeholders like the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Commerce, other government agencies, and some private entities such as Bank of Guam. They also discussed the matter with the governor and legislators.

"At public presentations on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota we tried to make the people understand the impacts if there are, to the general public so in the questions we posted the benefits of the plan and how it's going to be used to shape policy and this policy will eventually affect everyone."

"One thing we realize is that every island has different priorities. For Rota, it is farming and conservation. For Tinian, they are concerned with agricultural

use to farm and ranch. On Saipan, a lot of people were concerned with over development," he added.

According to Reyes, they are expecting other concerns from the public that is why they will continue reaching out to get public comments to see what the real concerns are.

"Our ultimate goal is to present a land use plan that really reflects what the people wants. The more information and feedback we get, the better this land use will come into place," he said.

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Alleged victim in CW-1 scam admits they begged Phan, fiancée to renew contracts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mohammad Tazizul Islam, one of the alleged victims in the CW-1 scam, testified yesterday that he and other Bangladeshi workers begged to TBK Auto Shop owner David Trung Quoc Phan and his fiancée, Analyn Nunez, to renew their CW-1 permit applications.

Islam said they begged Phan and Nunez because they spent a lot of money just to come and work on Saipan and that four months after arriving here, their CW-1 permits were already expiring.

Phan agreed to renew their contracts, said Islam in the continuation of his testimony in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of defendants Phan, Nunez, Muksedur Rahman, Rahman's wife Shahinur Akter, and Md. Rafiqul Islam.

Witness Islam agreed with defense counsel Steven Pixley, counsel for Phan, that Phan, who has a big heart, agreed to renew their contracts.

At Pixley's cross examination, Islam admitted that he lied before the U.S. Embassy about his job qualification just to get here on Saipan.

Islam said when he arrived on Saipan on April 21, 2016, Phan and defendant Rahman met him

at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

He said it was the first time he met Phan.

Islam said he never saw Phan in Bangladesh and that Phan never paid him money in Bangladesh.

Islam said he paid 57,000 Takas to defendant Zeahur Rahman Dalu, through Dalu's mother in Bangladesh, but she never gave him a receipt.

He said the mother stated there is no need for receipt as she and him are living in the same village.

Islam said upon arriving from the airport, Phan took him to Rahman's house.

He said Phan gave each of the recruited Bangladesh workers, including him, \$50, and some utensils for use at the house.

At TBK, Islam said he was able to do whatever work assigned to him.

He said after TBK, he went to Kensington Hotel, where he made cleaning work for only one day.

He said his CW-1 permit expired on Oct. 28, 2016.

At direct examination by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, Islam said his work at Phan's TBK lasted only for one month and 15 days.

He said after working for three days at TBK, he was told

to find a job.

He said after working for one day at Kensington, he was told not to go back so he went back to TBK.

Islam said he received the minimum wage from TBK and that Nunez was the one who would hand him the cash payment.

He said at TBK, he was required to pay the \$470 as processing fee for CW-1 permit renewal.

Islam said as there was no job they went to Rahman, who told them just to wait.

He said they went to Nunez, but the latter was angry at them.

He said he had no job and money at that time.

Islam said Phan told him he was not supposed to give him a job.

He said he talked with Rahman, who told him to speak to Dalu.

Islam said they told Nunez that they paid a lot of Takas just to work on Saipan, but she told them that the company cannot pay him back the money.

He said Nunez told him that Rahman was supposed to give him a job.

He said Phan told him he would talk to Rahman.

Islam said during a meeting with Phan at Rahman's house,

he and other complaining Bangladeshi workers told Phan they each paid large amounts of money in Bangladesh.

Islam said Rahman was possibly translating in a different way to Phan as they are not good in English.

He said Phan stated he would take care of the renewal of their CW-1 permits.

Islam said he told Rahman it took them so much money to come to Saipan and asked him to pay them back.

He said Rahman stated he did not get any payment, but Dalu pointed to Rahman as to who got the payment.

He said Dalu stated whatever money he took he would return and told Rahman to do so also.

As an argument ensued, Islam said, Phan told them he would renew their contracts.

Islam said he told Phan how much money he paid in Bangladesh to come to Saipan. He said Rahman told them not to tell Phan about money payments.

Islam said at Rahman's house, Rahman tried to beat him.

He said defendant Akter, who is Rahman's wife, stated she would call the police if Islam and the other workers come again, and that she would file a rape case against them.

Islam said he then talked to attorney Pamela Brown about their situation.

He said at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh, the person there never asked him about such kind of question whether he had an experience with auto body repair.

Islam said after this case is

over, he still likes to stay on Saipan and work.

Islam completed his testimony yesterday. The trial will resume today, Thursday, at 8am. U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington Senior U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour is presiding over the trial.

MISSING

From Page 1

Saleh apparently could not sleep and went for a walk.

Since then, the witness testified the lawyer, but there was no reply.

Tarkong said Saleh has not returned home and has not reported to work at the Office of the Public Defender.

Tarkong urged anyone who has information about Saleh's whereabouts to call DPS at 664-9000/9001.

Saleh was admitted to practice law in the CNMI courts as an assistant public defender on June 2, 2017.

TORRES

From Page 1

GAO report noted that though the CNMI economy of fiscal year 2015 was in much better shape compared to fiscal year 2005, its reliance in foreign labor—set to end at Dec. 31, 2019—could impede the Commonwealth's ability to repay its debts.

GAO was referring to the end of the CW-1 program, officially known as the CNMI Transitional Worker program that has been in place since 2009. The program's first deadline was set at 2014, but was extended to this coming 2019. As of publication, U.S. Congress has yet to allow extensions for the CW-1 program, however Torres and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) both noted that an extension proposal is in the works.

"... The Commonwealth requests for the U.S. Congress' serious consideration regard-

Saipan Tribune learned that he came to Saipan this year from the U.S. mainland together with assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein.

Saleh filled the position of assistant public defender Michael Sato, while Epstein filled the position of assistant public defender Tillman Clark.

Saleh previously worked as a lawyer in the Federated States of Micronesia and other U.S. jurisdictions.

A fellow attorney said yesterday that Saleh is genuine, kind, and caring.

"He's a good lawyer and a good person," said the lawyer, who requested not be identified.

ing the transition deadline and the CNMI's continued economic reliance on foreign labor," wrote Torres.

GAO also noted in their report that CNMI public debt has plunged 42.5 percent from the period of fiscal year 2005 at \$251.7 million to fiscal year 2015 at \$144.7 million.

"... The CNMI aspires to sustain its economic viability outside of external debt. The ... report gives merit to the CNMI's steady increase in revenue after 2011 following the growth of the tourism industry," said Torres, further adding that the report further supported a boost in CNMI tourism following the introduction of the CNMI gaming industry.

According to the GAO report, the CNMI has seen a Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, increase for three consecutive years since 2013. The report also noted that the GDP to debt ratio of the CNMI was at a low 16 percent for fiscal year 2015.

Family Grief Support Group to meet today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting today, Oct. 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more

than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during

the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

RETIREMENT

From Page 1

updated results of their audit, 21 other members were underpaid in a total amount of \$57,751, with the most was underpaid \$1,200.

Torres discussed the audit on overpayment and underpayment in her presentation during last week's status conference in Betty Johnson's class action held in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The lawyer said the Settlement Fund Trustee's previous report for the combined fourth quarter fiscal year 2014 and first quarter FY 2015, there were 276 members who received a total of \$1,493,809, while 124 members were underpaid in the total amount of \$330,526.

Torres said the audit was done to identify membership files with potential issues.

She said the benefits audit software identified 399

membership files with potential issues.

Torres said the manual review on member files has a five-step process.

She said after review is completed, member files with no issues are closed out.

Torres said 247 files did not have issues, while 152 files had issues.

"We notified them if there are issues," she said, adding that they then make adverse decision, explain the issue, and give them opportunity to respond or settle.

In response to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood's question, Torres disclosed that they pay lump sum to those who got underpayment.

Torres said \$300,000 is the most overpayment.

Torres said it took three weeks to go through the five-way review process.

"We made a huge progress, Torres said.

She said they prioritized paying those having underpayment, who also get interest.

Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce Tang said they found errors in various numbers factored into the calculation affecting the benefit amounts.

On underpayment, Tang in her report said some members' benefits were improperly computed, resulting in benefit underpayments.

The audit determined that 247 of the member accounts did not contain any issues and were closed out, while 152 filed had issues.

On those having issues, Tang found that the additional five-year credit was incorrectly applied to members who did not qualify for such credit.

Tang said they also found that the average annual salary for a number of files were miscalculated, resulting in overpayments.

She said a number of members improperly received Cost of Living Adjustment

(COLA) without satisfying the age requirement.

Tang said some members received credited service, but their membership records do not support the amount of time in service.

On double dipping, Tang said they found that some re-employed retirees improperly received benefits and government salaries without satisfying any of the exceptions under the statute.

In some cases, Tang said, the early retirement penalty was not applied or improperly applied.

On employee contribution, Tang said some members paid the incorrect contribution rate.

On overtime/compensatory time, Tang said many members were improperly given service credit instead of vesting service credit for OT/CT hours, and/or were not eligible for such credit because they did not meet the threshold 2,080 regular hour requirement.

HOTEL

From Page 2

ily to Saipan from New York.

According to Yuan, he and his family have built their lives here over the years and he owns other properties in Mt. Tapochao that he rents out.

"We plan to renovate this building in half a year and we hope to open half a year later. Initially, we are investing between \$5 million and \$6 million. In the future, when we are ready to construct 300 additional hotel and apartment rooms, we are looking at \$20 million more investment," he said.

"We are happy to serve the

CNMI people as we are adding more rooms to accommodate tourists and the location is ideal as it is close to the airport. We also plan to hire more than 150 local people. In that way we can also help in creating jobs for the people and contribute to the economy of Saipan," he added.

The Airport Castle Hotel has been abandoned for two decades now and has experienced failed attempts of three companies to revive the hotel.

A CNMI resident said, "Fixing up old property is better than having new ones built. If only there is a guaranteed follow through... We (pertaining to CNMI government) should require bonds."

BEA CABRERA

From left, Josephine Mesta, Hyatt Regency Saipan Human Resources director, SHRM West divisional director Kon Decoteau, Hyatt Regency personnel officer Penny Jones, and Hyatt Regency Learning manager Denise Montenegro.

‘Empowering HR is secret to success’

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The promotion of business success in a global workplace by empowering the company’s human resources management was discussed at the special meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management held yesterday at Charley’s at the Pacific Island Club Saipan.

According to SHRM West divisional director Jon Decoteau, human resources has evolved into being more than an administrative department in a business.

“HR is a true business partner. They need to understand how the business operates, how it makes money, how they should treat customers, position itself in a competitive landscape, and understand what the people component of that is. At the end of the day, HR is beyond the administration of just filling up positions but really going out and finding out what’s the pool of talent that we need,” he said.

“Employers in businesses realize that the only way to win in the workplace today is to make sure that you are finding the best talent, you are engaging the people that you are working with, and that you are developing them. I think the path for that to happen is through HR,” Decoteau added.

Decoteau said that for CNMI businesses to be more competitive locally and globally, management should approach HR and personnel development in a financial component point of view.

“A lot of large companies have done to really win in the global space is like they have the financial component. It will take time to come up with a business strategy and determine the financial implications of those strategies are. Many large corporations do that with people,” he said.

“They need to focus what type of talent they are going to need and who are the types of people who will most likely to get promoted to new opportunities. You need to strategically look at your operations and make decisions around people just like what you do from a finance standpoint,” he added.

According to Decoteau, a company that has a successful and aggressive growth and is able to sustain this for over 5-10 years has a strong HR behind it.

“If you look at the tech

companies that are in the valley (Silicon Valley), they bring in really sharp HR professionals to hire and retain personnel, and create a workplace where you throw out the rules that get in the way of people, get effective and making sure that they comply,” he said

Decoteau said that an effective HR department is one that has to have an understanding of human resources either academically or through a on the job experience.

“One of the greatest failures of organizations is they do not believe that HR is important. You need a person that specializes on talent and people. People wait too late or maybe they don’t hold the bar high enough for HR professionals. Businesses look for an administrative person as opposed to somebody who can look at it in a strategic way and help them attain their business goals,” he said

“I think that you need to have a nose for business. You need to understand how a business makes money,” he added.

CNMI SHRM plans to open the Student SHRM chapter and as a start, a meeting is set to talk to the students of the Northern Marianas College.

According to Decoteau that this move will knit the students in with the National SHRM where there are about 300,000 members around the world in about 110 different countries.

“It exposes the students in the career of human resources to see if they would be interested. It helps provide the students an avenue and a connection of the local chapter to talk to other HR professionals on what they do and also sets up a pipeline of talent for HR opportunities in the future,” he said.

Decoteau said that the CNMI’s growing economy and flourishing workforce goes well with the personal development of people.

“I love coming to places that have a vision for the future and are executing on it. My observation in the short time that I am here is that I see a lot of growth and potential. That’s pretty exciting. At the end of the day, people who are working and developing themselves, make better individuals, make better parents, they provide for their families and children and ultimately, make stronger citizens,” he said.



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Torres announces \$441,815 for Carolinian cultural preservation

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, through the Carolinian Affairs Office (CAO) and the Office of Grants Management (OGM), announced yesterday that the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), under the US Department of Health and Human Services, awarded \$441,815 for three years for Carolinian youth development and cultural preservation through the Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) program.

Torres said \$180,967.00 has been allocated for the first year (FY 2018), with \$129,734.00 for the second year (FY 2019) and \$131,114.00 for the third year (FY 2020).

The ANA promotes social and economic self-sufficiency in communities through SEDS grants.

These financial assistance grants are highly competitive and support state and territorial projects that aim to reduce or eliminate community problems and achieve community goals for native communities around the country.

At the beginning of the calendar year, Torres outlined key priorities aimed at effectively preserving cultural heritage and traditional practices and has fostered conversations with offices to seek ways of funding these priorities.

In June of this year, Carolinian Affairs executive assistant for John Henry I. Tagabuel submitted the office's project, "Tepengi Kkosch Refaluwasch/Caring for Our Carolinian Culture," to the ANA SEDS program for consideration. The project proposal was aimed at

better fostering cultural knowledge and practices for the Carolinian community.

"In coordination with the Office of the Governor and the Office of Grants Management, we worked on the proposal's problem statement which is that Carolinian youths are currently not acquiring traditional knowledge and practices. In line with the mission of CAO, which is to develop programs and provide services that protect, promote, and preserve the welfare, culture, and traditions of the indigenous Carolinians of the CNMI, the goal was to teach more traditional cultural knowledge and practices to the Carolinian youth and adults," Tagabuel said.



Torres

He added that in order to achieve the project goal, CAO has two project objectives.

"The first objective is that by the end of the three years, or the 36-month project period, 200 Carolinians (125 in ages 10-17; 75 in ages 18 and above) will have maintained, among them, at least 10 traditional knowledge and practices. The second objective is that in three years, CAO will have established a cultural artifacts display hall to showcase and support Carolinian traditional culture. Our office remains committed to making sure we achieve this goal with our community partners. I want to personally thank Manny F. Borja,

Daisy Wabol, Susan White, and Emma Perez for their assistance on this application," Tagabuel added.

OGM administrator Epi-phanio E. Cabrera Jr. noted that he is very pleased with the result from the CAO grant submission to ANA.

"The positive result is a testament to the work CAO put in. Getting an award from ANA is very difficult given the amount of competition and limited amount of awards available. The public should expect a myriad of cultural outputs and outcomes to come out of this ANA grant award," Cabrera said.

Torres added that the grant award will center on youth development, community health development, and strengthening families.

"In line with the ANA's

mission, the grant award will help the Carolinian Affairs Office foster youth development through the traditional cultural activities for our children. Our kids will also gain more knowledge of traditional medical practices, the value of local food, and the significance of our historical arts and crafts. Something that's near and dear to my heart is that our kids will have more opportunities to also learn more about subsistence farming. Ultimately, it is our collective goal to strengthen the family because these cultural activities will foster the well-being of our children and our parents as they learn together. I commend CAO for their work on this grant, and we look forward to overseeing its success," he said. (PR)

BOOK DONATION

First lady Diann Torres presented copies of books *I Lina'la Hu* and *Hafa Si-nentete-Mu?* published by Lady Diann Torres Foundation to the William S Reyes Elementary School administrators for inclusion in the school's library. Both books are on sale for \$10 at the Lady Diann Torres Foundation office in Susupe. Custom souvenir tees in adult and children sizes are also available for \$15. Proceeds of the sale of both books and souvenir tees will fund the 2nd Annual LDTF Language in Literacy Young Author's Competition winning entries. For details call 235-5838(LDTF) or email diann.torres@torresfoundation@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Premium processing now available for all petitioners seeking H-1B visas

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) resumed premium processing yesterday for all H-1B visa extension of stay petitions. Premium processing is now available for all types of H-1B petitions.

H-1B visas provide skilled workers for a wide range of specialty occupations, including information technology, engineering, and mathematics. When a petitioner requests the agency's premium processing service, USCIS guarantees a 15-calendar day processing time. If that time is not met, the agency will refund the petitioner's premium processing service fee and continue with expedited processing of the application.

In addition to today's resumption of premium processing for H-1B visa extension of stay petitions, USCIS had

previously resumed premium processing for H-1B petitions subject to the annual cap, petitions filed on behalf of physicians under the Conrad 30 waiver program, as well as interested government agency waivers and certain H-1B petitions that are not subject to the cap.

For more information on how the H-1B visa program is being used, visit the Buy American, Hire American: Putting American Workers First page. This page provides data and information about the hiring practices of employers who use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Facebook(/uscis), and Instagram (@USCIS). (PR)

New USCIS form streamlines process to obtain EAD, social security no.

WASHINGTON—Based on a new information-sharing partnership between U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA), foreign nationals in certain categories or classifications can now apply for work authorization and a social security number using a single form—the updated Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.

To lawfully work in the United States, foreign workers in some categories and classifications need both an employment authorization document (EAD) from USCIS, and a Social Security number (SSN) from the SSA. Previously, applicants needed to submit a Form I-765 to USCIS for an EAD, and then submit additional paperwork in-person at their local Social Security office to obtain an SSN.

The revised USCIS form includes additional questions that allow applicants to apply for an SSN or replacement

card without visiting a Social Security office. Starting today, USCIS will transmit the additional data collected on the form to the SSA for processing. Moving forward, applicants who receive their approved EADs from USCIS should receive their Social Security card from SSA within the following two weeks.

EADs serve as documentation to show employers that an individual is authorized to work in the U.S. for a specific time period. SSNs are used to report wages to the government, and to determine an individual's eligibility for certain benefits. USCIS encourages all U.S. employers to verify the employment eligibility of all new hires through E-Verify.

For additional information on applying for employment authorization, visit USCIS' EAD page or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center.

For more information on applying for a Social Security

card, see this fact sheet.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or fol-

low us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Instagram (@uscis), and Facebook (/uscis). (PR)



SUPER HERO DONOR

Bank of Guam is proud to announce its Super Hero Sponsorship and contribution to the 2017 American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's annual Club 200 Gala dinner scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Shown at the check presentation, from right to left standing, ARC-NMI Chapter board chair Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, Bank of Guam's Larry Philip and Marci Tomokane, event co-chair Nola Hix, honorary ARC-NMI Chapter board member Florence Sablan, ARC-NMI Chapter staff Maryann Taman, ARC-NMI Chapter volunteer Jennifer DLGuerrero, and BankGuam Investment Services' Allie Taitano. Seated: Bank of Guam's Gus Palacios, ARC-NMI Chapter's J.D. Tenorio, ARC-NMI Chapter event co-chair Patty Palacios, Bank of Guam board chair, president, and CEO Lou A. Leon Guerrero, and ARC-NMI Chapter board member Larry Lee. For additional information, please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or Jackie.marati@bankofguam.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Supreme Court to hear oral arguments on Rota, Tinian

This October the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Rota and Tinian. On Thursday, Oct. 5, at 10am the court will hear arguments in Commonwealth v. Hank Taitano at the Centron Hustisia Rota. On Thursday, Oct. 19, at 10am the court will hear arguments in Marianne C. Teregeyo, Secretary of the Department of Public Lands v. Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian at the Tinian Courthouse.

The off-island appellate sessions are part of the Judiciary's

goal to increase community engagement. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court held sessions at the Northern Mariana College and Kagman High School, both well attended by students and faculty.

"As the Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, we hear cases originating on all of the islands, and it is important we show the community we represent the entire Commonwealth," said Chief Justice Alexandro Castro.

Students will be in attendance,

and justices and staff members will hold a question and answer session after oral arguments.

"Judges and justices in the classroom has been a great success on Saipan, and we want to extend the same opportunity to all of our students on Tinian and Luta," Castro noted. "We hope this will encourage students to participate in Law Day events, compete in Mock Trial, and consider careers in the legal field."

For further information, contact Nora Borja at 236-9800. (PR)

Lecture on Guam English on Oct. 10 at UOG

HAGÁTNÁ, Guam—The Richard Flores Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) at the University of Guam announces its next installment in its 2017-2018 seminar series, featuring a lecture by University of Bern graduate student Eva Kuske on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, entitled "Guam English: You've all heard it, but what does it really sound like?" beginning at 6:30pm at the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (CLASS) Lecture Hall on the UOG campus.

The lectures are open to the

public, free of charge and will be held on the second or third Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:30pm.

Kuske received a grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation to conduct her research project on Guam English, making her the first researcher to receive this grant in the subject of English linguistics. It allows her to spend a semester working at the Micronesia Area Research Center, at the University of Guam.



Kuske

MARC is considered a world-class research facility for social sciences and humanities studies of the people of the Marianas and Micronesia. Everyone intent on learning about the culture, history, language of the people in this region must visit MARC's research library.

The lectures will be pre-recorded by Rlene "Live" Productions and aired on PBS Guam and YouTube after edits. (PR)



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MVA joins China Int'l Tourism Industry Expo 2017

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Dynasty Holiday at the China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE) 2017 in Guangzhou on Sept. 8-10, 2017, to showcase The Marianas.

This year's 7th CITIE, organized by the Tourism Administration of Guangdong Province, was held in the China Import and Export Fair Pazhou Complex and attracted over 200 exhibitors, nearly double the number of last year's exhibitors. Participants included global and domestic exhibitors from 55 countries and regions, as well as 22 mainland China provinces, municipalities, and

autonomous regions.

"CITIE provided a perfect opportunity to showcase the

unique charms of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said MVA managing director Christopher A.



MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority's Guangzhou marketing manager Ben Liu and Dynasty Holiday trainer Yoyo Panare interviewed by a representative of internet company Tencent Guangdong at the China International Tourism Industry Expo 2017 in Guangzhou on Sept. 8, 2017.

Concepcion. "We participated in the opening ceremony of the event and shared a booth with Dynasty Holiday to present the public and travel industry delegates with the many attractions, natural beauty, and cultures of The Marianas, as well as travel tips."

The Marianas delegation was also interviewed by internet company Tencent. (MVA)

Tour products of The Marianas are shared with the public and travel industry delegates at the China International Tourism Industry Expo 2017 in Guangzhou on Sept. 8-10, 2017.



MVA



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority joins Dynasty Holiday at the China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE) 2017 in Guangzhou on Sept. 8-10, 2017, to showcase The Marianas.

Taiwan model shoots FHM cover story in NMI

Model, actress, and Taiwan Top 10 Beauty Bea Hayden was in The Marianas on Sept. 12-17, 2017, for a cover story photo shoot with *For Him Magazine*, or FHM.

Hayden is a well-known model in commercial films and a rising movie star in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan who stars in the role of Nan Xiang in the movie *Tiny Times*.

"Hayden first visited The Marianas in September 2016 for a movie project with KPOP group Seung Ri (Big Bang), but the shooting schedule didn't give her much time to see the island," said MVA acting managing director Judy Torres. "The theme for the FHM cover story photo shoot will be traveling solo, so this time there were sites covered during her trip."

FHM was first published by Trends Media Group in 2004 and soon became the most



Taiwan Top 10 Beauty Bea Hayden has a photo shoot for *For Him Magazine* on Sept. 15, 2017, at the Blowhole on Tinian in the Marianas.

MVA

published men's fashion and lifestyle magazine in China. Being the first men's exclusive mainstream media founded in China, FHM has established the reputation of advocating a modern, bold and high-end lifestyle for the new generation male audience.

The cover shoot is anticipated to bring an estimated

\$740,000 in ad value for the Marianas through the magazine circulation of 780,000 copies in November 2017, as well as over 2.4 million Weibo followers and 500,000 WeChat followers.

Sites included in the location shoot were: Hollywood Theatres, Joeten Shopping Center, Kagman, Let's Go! UTV tour,

Imperial Pacific International yacht, Kensington Hotel, Taga Beach, Broadway, Blow Hole, Chulu Beach, snorkeling at Turtle Cove, Tachogna Beach, Obyan Beach, Mt. Tapocaho, Banzai Cliff, Middle Road Oleai Beach, Coca-cola Bottling Co., and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, where the group lodged. (MVA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 5, 2000

NMC accreditation in full swing

The whole college community stood by yesterday as the nine-member team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges began its four-day evaluation of CNMI's lone public postsecondary institution. Prior to the formal visit, the Northern Marianas College administration oriented students, professors, administrators and staff on the series of activities scheduled to take place within the week, in efforts to ease the growing tension associated with the whole accreditation process. NMC Accreditation Liaison Officer Dr. Barbara Moir appeared the college community by underscoring the principal

goal of accreditation which is to ensure that NMC maintains high academic standards and services expected of an institution for higher learning.

DPH, PSS set to sign MOU on telehealth/telemedicine

The Department of Public Health and the Public School System are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding which will allow health officials to use the facilities of PSS in its telehealth/telemedicine programs. DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the department will be able to avail of the discounted education rates that will help improve the videoconferencing capability of the medical staff. Mr. Villagomez noted that this will also help in the continuing

education of nurses and other medical staff through distance learning thus avoiding the expenses in sending them off-island. The Health Resources and Services Administration through the U.S. Department of Health is willing to fund the pilot project on telemedicine/telehealth programs.

October 5, 2004

Stateless persons rush to apply for US passports

The U.S. Passport Office staff had an unusually busy day yesterday, as the so-called "stateless" persons rushed to apply for the travel document.

Passport officer Ann Doris Babauta said stateless persons started coming in at as early as 8:30am, mostly to get information about requirements and the application procedure. Many of them returned in the afternoon with the complete requirements. The U.S. State Department's Passport Agency in Honolulu has advised the

local passport office to accept applications from stateless persons, Babauta said. She refused to give a time frame for the approval and issuance of the passports, saying that the local office's functions are limited to accepting and facilitating applications. The decision on whether or not to grant passports lies with the Honolulu office. The Passport Office charges an \$85 fee for each application.

Bill raising vehicle safety inspection fee hangs fire

The House of Representatives deferred action on the bill giving vehicle safety inspectors the option to raise fees from the current \$5 to a maximum of \$15.

House Bill 14-168 drew criticism from lawmakers, particularly House minority floor leader Heinz Hofschneider who maintained that the fee increase may be a form of taxing vehicle owners. For his part, Speaker Benigno Fitial sought clarification on the

coverage of the bill—whether it will include all vehicles or only commercial ones. The House referred the bill back to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for further review.

October 5, 2005

Panel asked to study \$54M debt for PSS

House members have tasked the House Ways and Means Committee to study a proposal that aims to incur a public debt of \$54 million for the Public School System. Members voted to refer House Joint Resolution 14-44 to the committee, which is headed by Rep. Norman S. Palacios. The proposal, authored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, aims to authorize the PSS, on behalf of the CNMI government, "to incur a public debt of up to \$54 million for the financing of the new schools, additional classrooms, and other related school capital improvement projects for 2005 to 2012." To

pass, the measure requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of each chamber. The resolution said that the PSS' seven-year (2005-2012) CIP plan identifies the need for three new schools and 139 new classrooms to accommodate the growing student enrollment in the CNMI.

Hiroshima TV program to feature Marianas

An eight-man film crew from Hiroshima, Japan is on island to capture attractive images that the island offers and then use them in a popular program called "Mezamashi-TV Wagamama! Kimamama! Tabikibun." Of the TV crew, there are two female cast members—Akiho Sendo and Eriko Mikami. Sendo, who is familiar with the Marianas, will be featured as the tour guide, while Mikami is the TV host for the program. The program features destinations and targets all ages of both genders, and is viewed by over five million households.

Bordallo accepting applications for service academy nominations

HAGATÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently announced that she is accepting applications for a Congressional nomination to the U.S. Service Academies. Students interested in attending the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York are encouraged to apply. Complete application packets must be received by Con-

gresswoman Bordallo's Guam District Office by Friday, Dec. 1, 2017.

A Congressional nomination is a requirement of the Service Academies' application process. Candidates interested in applying for a Congressional nomination are encouraged to contact the Guam District Office at (671) 477-4272, if they have any questions about the nomination process or need help in completing their application.



Bordallo

To download Congresswoman Bordallo's Service Academy Nomination Application Form, or to learn more about the nomination process, please visit the Congresswoman's website at www.bordallo.house.gov. For more information on individual service academies, please visit the websites below:

- U.S. Air Force Academy – <http://www.usafa.af.mil>
- U.S. Military Academy -

<http://www.usma.edu>

■ U.S. Naval Academy - <http://www.usna.edu>

■ U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - <http://www.usmma.edu>

"I am always proud to nominate Guam's best and brightest who are willing to serve our nation to the U.S. service academies," said Bordallo. "The service academies are an excellent opportunity for our young men and women to receive a robust education and obtain a commission to be an officer in our military. So many of Guam's gradu-

ates from the service academies are proudly serving our country and making a difference in our communities. The service academies pro-

vide excellent resources and training for success not just in the military, but for life and I encourage our young people to apply." (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th birthday to our forever princess, Lymia Michelle Macaranas. We love you to pieces and beyond!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA¹

- I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. September 20, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments²
- III. Reports
 1. Chair
 2. Board Committees
 - a. CIP
 - b. FPA
 - c. ISA
 - d. LIA
 - e. SARC
 - f. SICPP
 3. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - b. Head Start Program
 - c. Others
 - i. PSS Events for October
- IV. Unfinished Business
 1. Legal Counsel Position
 2. Director of Finance Position
- V. New Business
 1. Praxis I Alternative Certification
 - a. Chamorro & Carolinian Language & Heritage Studies
 - b. Career & Technical Education
 - c. Early Childhood Infants & Toddlers
 - d. Early Childhood Pre-K
 - e. Classroom Teachers
 2. Repeal of Praxis 1 Requirement
 3. Compensation Plan Amendments
 4. Suspension of Pay Differential for Special Education (December 2017)
 5. Proclamations for October:
 - a. Principals Month
 - b. Head Start Awareness Month
 6. Online Banking for School Non-Appropriated Funds
 7. Certification and Licensure Matters
 - a. CLO Report 2017-013
- VI. Executive Session³
 1. Legal Updates
 2. Personnel/Certification
 3. Other matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

¹ In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



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1PM-5PM - DANCE & MUSIC PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITS, FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

5PM-6PM - MEN'S WALK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

6PM-7PM - CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

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For more information, call 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. For the latest news and updates, follow NMCADSV on Facebook, Twitter (@EndViolenceNMI) and Instagram (@nmcadsv).

*DVAM 2017 t-shirts limited to first 200 participants who register, while supplies last

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lax gun laws again fail innocent Americans

Details are still emerging from Sunday's horrific shooting in Las Vegas, but one thing is crystal clear at this point:

Americans are being killed and maimed at an unacceptable level because our gun laws are overly permissive.

Of course no one other than Stephen Paddock is to blame for killing at least 59 people and injuring more than 500 by firing from a gun-filled hotel room overlooking an outdoor concert Sunday night.

But we should hold Congress and state legislatures accountable for the miserable failure of gun policies they have enacted.

We would hold builders accountable if the roof collapsed on a house they built, killing family members. Our lawmakers should be held to the same standards.

This should start with an immediate moratorium on efforts to further weaken gun laws.

Then we must find a path forward for well-regulated gun ownership. This should include universal background checks and licensing, and outlawing private ownership of high-capacity bullet magazines, automatic weapons and "tactical" semiautomatics with detachable magazines and pistol grips.

Don't let politicians dodge this issue until concern fades. It is never too soon to address this enormous failure of American governance and the devastation that lax gun laws enable across the country.

We may never know Paddock's motive. But we now have a better understanding of the killing capacity of weapons that are legal or easy to obtain in America.

How we ended up here is no mystery. Legislation is an open book.

For example, the U.S. Senate in 2013 voted down a ban on high-capacity magazines that enable people to fire dozens of bullets without reloading. That law wouldn't have stopped Paddock but it might have reduced the casualties.

After hearing the rapid rat-a-tat of Paddock's weapon, who believes the benefit of civilians owning such equipment outweighs the risk?

The bottom line is current gun laws failed to limit the shooting of innocent people in Las Vegas. Hundreds of families are devastated, and the nation's people are fearful that their loved ones might be next.

Lawmakers who repeatedly reject reasonable limitations and allowed the assault-weapons ban to lapse in 2004 may feel they were defending freedom and making Americans safer.

We know now that's not the case. Overall, weak laws enabled an average Joe to acquire an arsenal, including tactical weapons, capable of quickly shooting 600 people.

Those laws make America more dangerous, and Americans less free to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those values trump the need to liberally interpret the Second Amendment as allowing broad access to all sorts of weapons.

See LAX on Next Page



More shootings, no difference

The numbers behind Sunday night's shooting in Las Vegas tell the story: 58 people are dead. More than 500 are injured. The gunman, whom his brother described as a wealthy retiree who routinely sent cookies to his mother, had at least 10 rifles in the hotel room from where he conducted the massacre.

But the chances of Congress addressing mass shootings in America: zero. There are very few certainties in Washington, but this is one of them.

We still don't know why the shooter did what he did. We don't know if he was coerced or mentally ill. We don't know how he got his weapons or whether he broke the law to get them. We also don't know what, if anything, could have prevented the shooting. But because he used guns as his weapons of choice, we know for certain that Monday will likely be the last we hear about the Las Vegas shooting in Washington in any substantive way, other than regret that the violence happened and complaints that more isn't being done to prevent it. But will more be done, no matter what "more" might involve? No. You can count on it.

We know this because nothing, no matter how gruesome, has roused Congress to action on the issue of gun violence in the last 20 years, despite the relentless drumbeat of news about them. Shootings at churches haven't done it, nor have shootings at schools. The horrible murder of first-graders in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, did not result in any changes, and neither did two separate attacks on members of Congress, one from each party. The shooting last year at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida — until Sunday, the nation's most deadly — seemed to make no difference in the debate. And neither, sadly, will the massacre in Las Vegas.

What sets gun violence apart from all the other terrible ways people lose their lives when it comes to Congress' willingness to act? If an airplane crash had killed 58 people trying to land at the Las Vegas airport Sunday, members of Congress would join together to launch investigations and hold hearings. What happened and why, they would demand to know. Was it the pilot's fault or the airline's fault? What can Congress do? Which laws can they pass? How can they at least try to solve the problem?

If more than 500 people had become ill in a Mandalay Bay restaurant, you could almost see the joint press conference with politicians, including the congressional delegation, assuring nervous Americans that the food supply is safe, but they stand shoulder to shoulder with their colleagues in Congress to prevent another outbreak in any other city in America.

Had a bomb maimed the same country music crowd in Las Vegas, the select congressional committee empowered to get to the bottom of the plot would practically appoint itself. A report

By PATRICIA MURPHY
CQ-Roll Call

Roll Call columnist Patricia Murphy covers national politics for The Daily Beast. Previously, she was the Capitol Hill bureau chief for Politics Daily and founder and editor of Citizen Jane Politics.



would be issued, with suggested legislation. Congress would rise above partisanship and pass something, anything, so that the terrorists wouldn't win. A thousand hashtags would bloom.

But because it was a gunman who turned that joyful concert into a killing field, the country can expect nothing more out of Congress and the White House than to think about us, pray for us, and wait until it happens again.

Who's to blame? It seems like a partisan issue, but it's really not. Republicans may be in charge in Washington now, but even when Democrats controlled the White House and both houses of Congress, they couldn't pass meaningful legislation to address mass shootings. The last sustained effort came after Sandy Hook, when Congress failed to pass measures to extend an assault weapons ban or expand background checks for gun sales. In both cases, the votes against were bipartisan.

It's easy to blame the National Rifle Association for Congress' inability to even debate the causes of mass shootings. The group can and will pump millions into individual races to influence the outcome and has the most powerful grass-roots operations in the country. They spent nearly \$30 million to help President Donald Trump get elected and in turn, he promised at their convention, "We're going to help the NRA."

But ultimately, only the members hold their voting cards. Members of Congress in both parties are choosing for their own reasons, either to suit their constituents, to win their next elections or because they really believe restricting guns has no effect on gun violence, to do nothing about the terror that finds Americans again and again in the places and spaces they least expect it.

Right now, the momentum in the gun debate is toward loosening gun laws. The House is poised to consider legislation to make it easier to buy silencers, as well as a sweeping measure to force states to honor other states' decisions to allow people to carry a gun without a permit. Until Sunday's shootings, the bills seemed ready to pass the House fairly easily.

Trump's Washington occasionally delivers a surprise
See MORE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kualidat Linala` Natibu

Mafama ma-umentan bisnis guine ginen casino, segun i administrasion. Buenu! I kuestion: kau i adelantu mattu papa` gi pottanmonedan familia gi hechuran subida?

`An seru, pues puru i malainfotmasion machalapun gi supin tasi. Taigue gi monedan familia! Hagu mismu testigu nu este na malainfotmasion!

I midision adelantu ma-espehus gi hilu` `nos kuantus asuntu tat kumu sueddu, edukasion yan idat linala` tautau. Este na atikulu siha `nai siña un` tutuhun umina asuntun kualidat linala` linahyan.

`An tana setbe sueddu, haf` estau mas ke 14,000 na empleau ni gumagana sueddun popble yan menos (federal definition of poverty income level and below)? Kau suficiente \$.55 na subida gi sakan para monedan nesessidat familia? Sin disiente na subida pues malag manu i mapublika na adelantun ekonomia?

Gi sige tume`ug na maribahan kontribusion aduana (tax) haf` mohon futturon tautau-ta siha gi halum kuattru años na tiempu? Fitme na pisu `nai tumotohge ekonomian Marianas pa`gu? Na ti hilu` un` sahyan (paska yan potlilu na ekonomian turista) `nai mau`udai?

`An mapua este na ekonomia haf` otru `nai siña ta katsu hit? Te`ug na asuntu siha gi oriya ni libianu hana` fan kuttosiha hit gi hechuran ha`ilas! Haf` para in` sañgane manhoben siha na famaguonta?

Pues i adelantu ni ta huhuñgog ti mattu papa` gi monedan familia. Ni i mismu fumafama na guaha adelantu ti siña ha pula` fino`ña. Naturatmente sa` megai mampos kuestion yan binibu ginen i publiku ni kumestiotiona malag manu i adelantu. Pot fabot kemprende na i publiku ha sen tuñgu` asuntoña.

Sopblante: Man-batbaru mañguentos i mansabiun hegsu` I Deni` pot sopblanten fondun publiku. Esta hu sasada` i palabra kau nuebu definisioña. Na ti sopblante kumeke ilegña tai dibi esta iya Marianas?

Na ti kantida na hagas yan nuebu na dibi ti manma-apapase? Haf` na maletke mana`e PSS fondoña lau mandatun konstitusion? Kuantu maseñala para CHC? Esta i hospitat kulan depatmentun manreferin malañgu para hospitat sanhiyuñg. Ti isau manehante soluke` mansabiun I Deni` sa` tatnai mafondu suffisiente para u prebeniye prontu yan kabales na setbisiun hinemlu`.

Hospitat: Man-diskuidau hit ni uniku fasilidat hinemlu` guine. Entre makomprende ni mansabiun haf` i problema ya ma-upus `sino mayotten ñaihon gi un` banda esta i biradan i batku ginen sankattan na islas siha. Dios mihu!

Gi uttimu biahe `nai hu fatoiue Emergency Room suette-yu` gi lottery ya mana`eyu` dos sabanas. Sige hu adiñgane infetmera haf` otru probleman hospitat. Ilegña i prohima megaiña ke todú

LAX

From Page 10

Paddock reportedly used a legal “bump stock” device that enables the firing of semi-automatic rifles at a rate similar to a fully automatic gun. Congress banned the sale of new automatic machine guns to civilians in 1986, but older ones may still be purchased. Semi-automatic weapons such as the AR-15 may also be converted to fire continuously using parts and instructions that are available online.

No law will keep us entirely safe. But it’s indisputable that strictly regulating guns and banning rapid-fire weapons would save lives, reduce carnage and make America safer.

People are still shot in countries such as England, Japan and Australia, where guns are tightly regulated. But they have few to no mass-shootings, involving at least four victims. Meanwhile America averages at least one per day.

Mass shootings cannot become a permanent feature of American life.

Don’t allow elected officials to sidestep this crisis or blame it on intractable mental-health problems.

The frequency and severity of mass shootings are the result of profound policy failures at the state and federal level.

It’s never too soon to make this right, and Las Vegas showed us how wrong we’ve been.

©2017 The Seattle Times

i chenot-hu. Todas!

Komprendiyun na ha nesessita i CHC kantidan fondu para u hatsa eskalera setbisiun hinemlu`. Ya mohon guaha inestudia haf` chachalaña este kase libianu ta satba este na chinatsaga pot hinemlu` tautau-ta. Haf` mohon?

Pettinente: Dispues de botasion sige mabohau binibu pot chatche`chu` mansabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Manmalefa i botadot na lamayot patte gi este na chinatsaga gaige giya siha mismu.

Kumeke ileghu na siha umelihe i mismu tropa. Debi ta rin-ueba dinisehan fotmat na areglu ya ta tutuhun bumota i mangai kualifikasion chumo`gue chechu` linahyan. Ke de parentela, na dieras na biahe puntan lapesmu!

Inadahe: Asuntun ekonomia mi-sustansia ya ha nesessita suanu na kabisiyu ni ma-estudia mamatinas planu. Poresu na ti siña na para uma-apotsu` futtunan i publiku. Kabales na estadiu yan inanalisa presisu gi este na asuntun linahyan.

Na chatsaga i kulan mapega inañgoghun niha gi haf` masuse-sede pa`gu. Gigon kalamten Japon industriaña casino ya mañaga tautauña gi tanu` niha, magpu` i industriian turista guine. Gigon umaguagat North Korea, umasablasus yan America `nai hini-chum bisita siha ginen iya China. Manu` guine ti makomprende ni mansabiun I Deni`?

Suanu: Sessu un` tiempu umadiñgan-yu` yan si biuhu yan otru siha man-amko`ta gi fina` inetnon. Man-suanu man-adiñgan. I totmun amtau na konbetsasion yan dopbladan palabra `nai klaru anog kumu bos fitme na mankabesiun i señgsoñg.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Get informed on SB 20-62, the ‘Cannabis Act’

You don’t have to be a philosopher or prophet to see that marijuana is here to stay forever and that we will have to deal with it forever. It also doesn’t take a lot of wisdom to know that one day we are going to have to learn how to live with marijuana without sending people to jail as that would go on forever! It should really be obvious that times have changed in regards to the spread of legalization and that the vast majority of Americans and Islanders are in favor of legalization. FYI readers, the legalization movement in America was started by the last President when he asked America in a public statement to “reform our criminal justice system and stop locking up people for using marijuana, especially our youth.” There have been so many states to follow the President’s advice and leadership that it should be obvious to the average citizen that legalization is just a matter of time for all of America, including the CNMI.

People are saying why I am promoting a legislative act instead of an initiative. I was active against the casino because of public and church concerns which were expressed twice by voting it down. Well we dragged around with the casino for over a decade and I even contributed to the delay—but I will share the lesson I learned from that experience which was “you can’t avoid the inevitable just delay it”—legalization is an inevitable fact so we can deal with it all now or continue to flounder like fools with delaying actions like an Initiative. But unlike the casino issue there is no real public out-cry against legalization or they would have been recognized in the first Senate hearings two years ago. If there were outright protest against legalization then I would agree that an Initiative would be more proper and fitting but that is not the case in the CNMI when over 21 percent of the population uses marijuana according to the statistic stated in the last Senate hearing. If voters truly protest for their right then it should be given but I don’t see any protest other than the lone individuals who don’t like me in the comment section who don’t even count as they represent .0000001 percent of the population.

MORE

From Page 10

breakthrough, and who is to say the president, who was once in favor of gun control, would not be again? Stranger things have happened.

But so far the only real difference the Las Vegas shootings seem to have made was in the president’s tone of the day, which

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Hu sen agradese seriosu na finu` niha kontodu grasiosu na konbetsa. Lastima sa` kulan hinanau atdau ni machum dispues gi sanlagu. Este na pañgpañg napu esta puru eku gi sanlagu.

Silensiu: Ti ayu huna` presisu i huhuñgog. Ayu mas yumama attensionhu i ti huhuñgog na finu` tautau-ta. Piot ya enteru ori-yahu katma. Debi bai fanayuyot para u katma hinasoghu na taya` ira para u finatoigie hit.

Desde alacha, kada ratu silensiu `nai ni hagun troñku gi oriya kalamten. Kau pot malofan trosun mapagahes ni dispues mama` pagyu gi chagu`? Puede tiha aminasa hit un` dañkulun pagpag botkan `sino linau.

I dañkulu na pagpag botkan miyas pot miyas ha destrosia taimanu masusede giya Indonesia. I dos linau giya Mexico megai ha destrosia guma` kontodu ha` anen tautau.

There is also the fact that the creation of a cannabis industry is an “economic venture” and it doesn’t take an economist to know that “the early bird gets all the worms” figuratively (the first business in a new industry are the winners) the rest get the leftovers. The CNMI is in a competition for the cannabis tourism market for this entire region of the world and “time is not out friend” on this as Guam and Hawaii are already a step ahead of us and the CNMI is literally playing “catch-up” as we are far behind them. It should also be noted that an Initiative will take another year and a half and if it passes it will still take another year to grow the strains and start the industry as we don’t have the resources of a Colorado, Oregon, or Washington. So we can play “political football” or we can get it done—I’m for getting it done now! On a final note: the people I talk to are saying “why can’t they just do it like they did the casino” and I would like to believe they represent the majority who are clearly outspoken for a legislative act. Voting will only make this a political football with no win for the people if Guam and Hawaii beats us to the cannabis tourism market for this Pacific Region—the legislative act will be a win for the CNMI!

As for the government interventions that I have recommended to be incorporated into the bill, marijuana policy experts have long indicated that the lack of adequate “government controls” has been and will continue to be the major dynamic that will constantly threaten the operations and the accountability of the businesses and individuals in the cannabis industry. So get informed about what I recommended before you start complaining and attacking the messenger or you will have missed the most important thing “the message!” I doubt if any citizens have even read the cannabis act and my recommendations are also a matter of public record so read for yourself and I’m sure most people with common sense will agree with the rational that I presented.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman


was subdued, even prayerful. He spoke from the White House about unity and “love that defines us today and always will forever.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised “the national spirit of compassion that shines throughout our country” and offered his condolences to the victims and their families.

Democrats demanded action. Republicans prayed for the victims. Progressive groups began fund raising off the news. And the day went on.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN


TODAY



Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°


SATURDAY



Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲ 87° ▼ 77°


SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▼ 77°

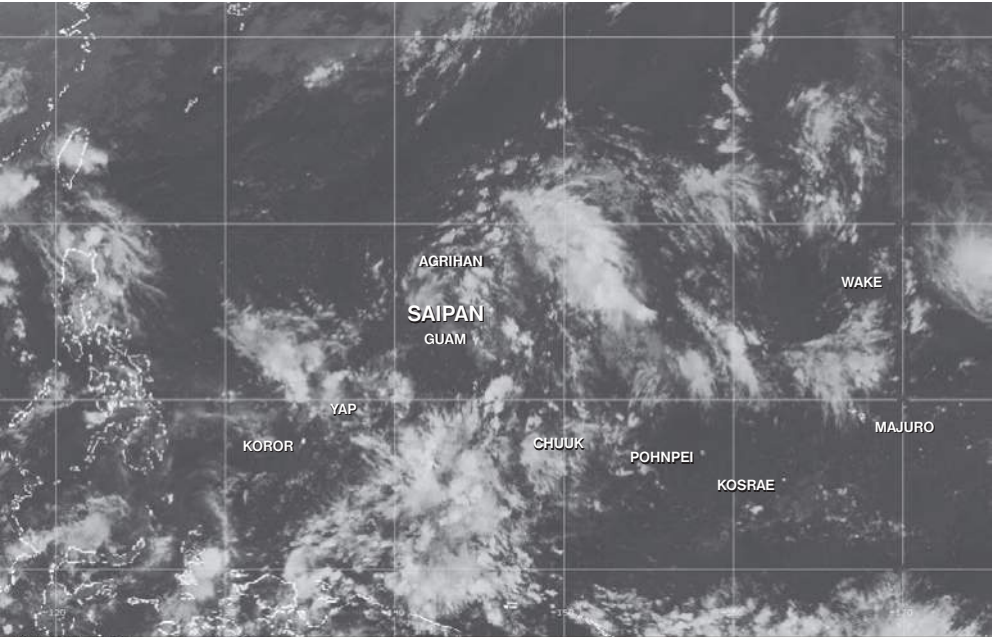
MONDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:46 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The arrival of another upper-level low within the upper-level trough will result in thunderstorms occurring within the waters again. This is expected Friday through Saturday. Otherwise little change is expected. Winds will remain primarily from the northeast, once in a while from the southeast. Winds and seas will begin to build a bit during the first part of next week, otherwise there is little change as we remain in a trade-wind regime.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 54°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	73° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Windy	87° / 76°	
London	Showers	61° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	57° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	84° / 65°	
Osaka	Rain	66° / 64°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Busan	Rain	72° / 63°	
Rome	Sunny	77° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	84° / 61°	
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 55°	
Seoul	Showers	70° / 57°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 63°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:13 AM	LOW TIDE	0.48	
6:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	
1:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.24	
7:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:20 am	5:50 pm
Friday	-	6:15 am	6:36 pm
Saturday	-	7:12 am	7:23 pm
Sunday	-	8:11 am	8:12 pm
Monday	-	9:11 am	9:04 pm

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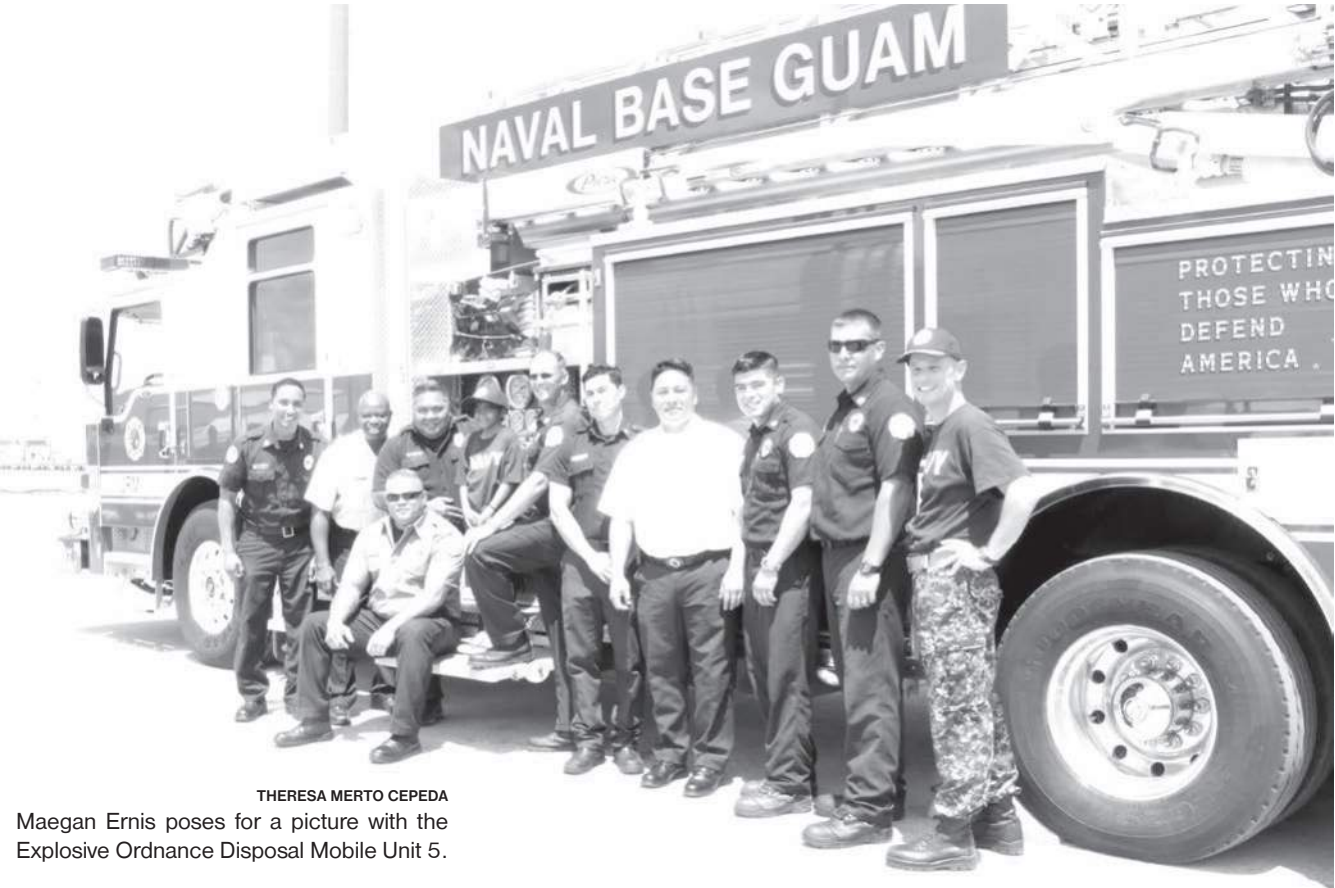
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)				NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN			
XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7	XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	SAIPAN TO ROTA			
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
				1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
				1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
				3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
				3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
				ROTA TO GUAM			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
				GUAM TO ROTA			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
				SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
				1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
				1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Make-A-Wish Foundation's Sailor for a Day



Maegan Erniss poses for a picture with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5.



On Sept. 30, Make-A-Wish Foundation beneficiary, 11-year-old Maegan Erniss, had the opportunity to be a sailor during an honorary enlistment at the U.S. Naval Base Guam headquarters.



Eleven-year-old Maegan Erniss goes on an excursion aboard a U.S. Coast Guard boat.



Eleven-year-old Maegan Erniss is the second Make-A-Wish recipient to participate in the Sailor for a Day program of the U.S. Naval Base Guam.

Maegan Erniss, who was diagnosed in 2015 with Fanconi's anemia, a rare genetic disorder, in the category of inherited bone marrow failure syndromes, witnesses a demonstration at Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5.



Maegan Erniss checks out the firefighting unit of the U.S. Naval Base Guam.



Maegan Erniss is Sailor for a Day at the U.S. Naval Base Guam. The program is a wish enhancement component for Maegan Erniss as her main wish for an iPhone 7 was granted in January, according to Make-A-Wish officials.



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Business

Yahoo: 3B accounts breached in 2013

BOSTON (AP)—Yahoo has tripled down on what was already the largest data breach in history, saying it affected all 3 billion accounts on its service, not the 1 billion it revealed late last year.

The company announced Tuesday that it has sent emails providing notice to additional user accounts affected by the August 2013 data theft.

The breach now affects a number that represents nearly “half the world,” said Sam Curry, chief security officer for Boston-based firm Cybereason, though there’s likely to be more accounts than actual users.

“Whether it’s 1 billion or 3 billion is largely immaterial. Assume it affects you,” Curry said. “Privacy is really the victim here.”

Yahoo first disclosed the breach in December. The stolen information included names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers.



This Jan. 14, 2015, file photo shows a sign outside Yahoo's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif. The owner of Britain's Daily Mail is in early discussions over a bid for ailing U.S. internet company Yahoo.

the breach with help from outside forensic experts. It says the stolen customer information did not include passwords in clear text, payment card data or bank account information.

Yahoo had already required users to change their passwords and invalidate security questions so they couldn't be used to hack into accounts.

The disclosure is also a huge embarrassment for Verizon, which has just started running TV ads for its new subsidiary Oath, which will consist of Yahoo and AOL services.

Verizon spokesman David Samberg said the company has no regrets about buying Yahoo, despite the latest revelation.

Companies often don't know the full extent of a breach and have to revise statements about how it affects customers years later, said Ben Johnson, co-founder and chief technology officer for Obsidian Security, based in Newport Beach, California. Johnson said Yahoo might never know exactly what was accessed.

Taxpayers might face choice of property tax, home deductions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Homeowners would be forced to choose between two popular tax deductions—one for local property taxes, the other for mortgage interest—under a potential compromise that House Republicans are considering as they craft the evolving tax revamp.

The nearly \$6 trillion tax overhaul plan being pushed by President Donald Trump and Republican leaders in Congress promises to retain the deduction of mortgage interest from federal income taxes—a cherished tax break used by about 30 million Americans that supporters say is a catalyst to home ownership.

Republicans in high-tax states such as New York, New Jersey and California are balking at the proposal from Trump and GOP leaders to eliminate the federal deduction for state and local taxes, fearing the financial hit on their constituents.

The possible deduction tradeoff is among several compromises being floated by Republican lawmakers to gain the

support of their defecting colleagues from high-tax states. Their opposition threatens to derail tax legislation that's seen as a political imperative for Republicans and Trump.

Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., said Tuesday he and several other Republicans discussed possible ways around the current impasse on Monday with Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

“It looks like we’re going to have some compromise” on state and local tax deductions, Collins said Tuesday at the Capitol. “I am confident there will be an accommodation for the high-tax states.”

But Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, a member of the Senate’s tax-writing Finance Committee, wasn’t sold on the deduction tradeoff idea.

“What does it save and where does it get us? Should the average South Carolinian subsidize the high property taxes in other states?”

Scott noted that the state

and local deduction costs the government an estimated \$1.3 trillion in lost revenue over 10 years. It covers local property taxes and state income taxes. With more than \$1 trillion having to be mined from closing loopholes and ending deductions to finance the Republican plan’s sweeping tax cuts, regional divisions within the GOP have jumped to the fore.

The high-tax, high-income states—New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and California—that urgently want to preserve the state and local deduction are Democratic strongholds, but with plenty of Republican lawmakers. A coalition of 70 lawmakers from those so-called blue states, including 20 Republicans, are fighting the proposed repeal of the deduction, arguing it would subject people to being taxed twice.

Collins said other possibilities discussed with Brady included “some either-ors” like the home deduction tradeoff and “maybe some capping.” That could mean limiting the amount homeowners could

deduct on their local property taxes, for example, to correspond with a maximum \$1 million of the home’s value, he suggested. Or further reducing the cap on the federal mortgage interest deduction, which currently allows homeowners to deduct interest on up to \$1 million in mortgage debt.

Changes like those “would take the argument that this is a tax cut for the rich off the table,” Collins said.

Trump, top administration officials and Republican architects of the plan insist that it would provide badly needed tax relief for the middle class—and wouldn’t benefit the wealthy.

The wealthiest sliver of the nation would reap big benefits, however. The plan would drop the tax rate for Americans making a half-million dollars or more by almost 5 percentage points. And the blueprint calls for eliminating the estate tax—paid by those with multimillion-dollar inheritances, a boon for wealthy individuals who inherit businesses, investments and real estate.

Following its acquisition by Verizon in June, Yahoo says, it obtained new intelligence while investigating

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airlines offer free travel for Las Vegas victims’ families

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines and Allegiant Air say they are offering free flights to family members of people who were killed or injured in the Las Vegas shooting. A Southwest spokeswoman said Tuesday that the offer was good for up to five family members. The airline will also help transport bodies of those killed, she said. Allegiant Air spokeswoman Hilarie Grey said more than a dozen people had accepted the airline’s offer, which was posted on Facebook, by midday Tuesday. Both airlines said they were working with local hotels to provide lodging help for family members arriving from out of town.

Scandal-plagued Equifax wins \$7.25 million contract from IRS

WASHINGTON (AP)—

The company at the center of the biggest breach of personal information just signed a contract with the federal government to provide, well, personal information. The Internal Revenue Service signed a \$7.25 million contract with Equifax last month. The no-bid contract, first reported by Politico, is for Equifax to provide the IRS with taxpayer and personal identity verification services. The contract stated that Equifax was the only company capable of providing these services to the IRS, and it was deemed a “critical” service that couldn’t lapse. The news of the contract came on the same day that lawmakers heard from the company’s former chairman and chief executive on how hackers were able to access the information of 145 million Americans, including Social Security numbers and dates of birth. The executive, Richard Smith, apologized to a House panel for the data breach.

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Canadian Dollar	1.25	Japanese Yen	112.49	South Korean Won	1,142.46
Chinese Yuan	6.65	Malaysian Ringgit	4.22	Swiss Franc	0.9719
Euro	0.8496	New Zealand Dollar	1.39	Taiwan Dollar	30.38
		Philippine Peso	49.94	Thailand Baht	33.33

Nation

Trump sees 'miracle' Puerto Rico survival, ignores critics

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Touring a small slice of Hurricane Maria's devastation, President Donald Trump congratulated Puerto Rico on Tuesday for escaping the higher death toll of "a real catastrophe like Katrina" and heaped praise on the relief efforts of his administration without mentioning the sharp criticism the federal response has drawn.

"Really nothing short of a miracle," he said of the recovery, an assessment at odds with the despair of many still struggling to find water and food outside the capital city in wide swaths of an island where only 5 percent of electricity customers have power back. The governor of Puerto Rico said late Tuesday that the official death toll has been increased to 34 from 16.

In the heart of San Juan, in fact, a few miles from the air base where Trump gave his thumbs-up report on progress, people stacked sewage-fouled clothes and mattresses outside houses and businesses lacking electricity nearly two weeks after the storm. "Nobody's come," said Ray Negron, 38, collecting debris in the Playita neighborhood.

Trump pledged an all-out



President Donald Trump tosses paper towels into a crowd as he hands out supplies at Calvary Chapel, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017, in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Trump is in Puerto Rico to survey hurricane damage.

effort to help the island while adding, somewhat lightly: "Now I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, but you've thrown our budget a little out of whack because we've spent a

lot of money on Puerto Rico. And that's fine. We've saved a lot of lives."

Known deaths from Maria in the U.S. territory stand at 34. But local officials caution that

any accounting of death and destruction is far from complete as people suffer secondary effects from thirst, hunger and extreme heat without air conditioning. As for Katrina,

as many as 1,800 people died in 2005 when levees protecting New Orleans broke, a toll in lives and property that took years to understand.

The visit offered fresh evi-

dence of the unconventional path Trump has taken in responding to the one-two-three punch from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. His effusive praise for federal relief efforts has overshadowed his displays of empathy for those who are suffering. And in Puerto Rico, in particular, his criticism of local people for not doing more to help themselves has struck an off note during a time of crisis.

Trump said his visit was "not about me" but then praised local officials for offering kind words about his administration's recovery effort and invited one to repeat the "nice things" she'd said earlier. Trump also singled out Gov. Ricardo Rossello for "giving us the highest praise."

"Every death is a horror," he said, "but if you look at a real catastrophe like Katrina and you look at the tremendous, hundreds of and hundreds and hundreds of people that died, and you look at what happened here with, really, a storm that was just totally overpowering, nobody has ever seen anything like this." He told local officials "you can be very proud of all your people, all of our people working together."

Vegas gunman transferred \$100K, set up cameras at hotel room

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Las Vegas gunman transferred \$100,000 overseas in the days before the attack and planned the massacre so meticulously that he even set up cameras inside the peephole of his high-rise hotel room and on a service cart outside his door, apparently to spot anyone coming for him, authorities said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, investigators are taking a harder look at the shooter's girlfriend and what she might have known about the attack at a country music festival, with the sheriff naming her a "person of interest" and saying the FBI is bringing her back to the U.S. on Wednesday for questioning.

Authorities are trying to determine why Stephen Paddock killed 59 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

They have been speaking with girlfriend Marilou Danley, 62, who was out the country at the time of the shooting and in the Philippines on Tuesday, and "we anticipate some information from her shortly," Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said.

Lombardo said he is "absolutely" confident authorities will find out what set off

Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who killed himself before police stormed his 32nd-floor room.

Authorities released police body camera video that showed the chaos of the attack as officers tried to figure out the location of the shooter and shuttle people to safety. Amid sirens and volleys of gunfire, people yelled "they're shooting right at us" while officers shouted "go that way!"

Clark County Undersheriff Kevin McMahon said the shooting spanned between nine and 11 minutes.

Paddock transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the shooting, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement but not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Investigators are still trying to trace that money and also looking into a least a dozen financial reports over the past several weeks that said Paddock gambled more than \$10,000 per day, the official said.

The cameras Paddock set up at the Mandalay Bay hotel casino were part of his exten-

sive preparations that included stockpiling nearly two dozen guns in his room before opening fire on the concert below. McMahon said the cameras included one in the peephole and two in the hallway.

"I anticipate he was looking for anybody coming to take him into custody," Lombardo said.

During the Sunday night rampage, a hotel security guard who approached the room was shot through the door and wounded in the leg.

"The fact that he had the type of weaponry and amount of weaponry in that room, it was preplanned extensively," the sheriff said, "and I'm pretty sure he evaluated everything that he did and his actions, which is troublesome."

Lombardo said the investigation is proceeding cautiously in case criminal charges are warranted against someone else.

"This investigation is not ended with the demise of Mr. Paddock," the sheriff said. "Did this person get radicalized unbeknownst to us? And we want to identify that source."

In addition to the cameras, investigators found a computer and 23 guns with him at the hotel, along with 12 "bump

stock" devices that can enable a rifle to fire continuously, like an automatic weapon, authorities said. Nineteen more guns were found at Paddock's Mesquite home and seven at his Reno house.

Video shot outside the broken door of the room shows an assault-style rifle with a scope on a tripod. The sheriff said an internal investigation has been launched to find out how that footage was obtained.

Some investigators turned their focus Tuesday from the shooter's perch to the festival grounds where his victims fell.

A dozen investigators, most in FBI jackets and all wearing blue booties to avoid contaminating the scene, documented evidence at the site where gunfire rained down and country music gave way to screams of pain and terror.

"Shoes, baby strollers, chairs, sunglasses, purses. The whole field was just littered with things," said Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt after touring the site Monday. "There were bloodstains everywhere."

More than 500 people were injured in the rampage, some by gunfire, some during the chaotic escape. At least 45 patients at two hospitals re-



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

mained in critical condition. All but three of the dead had been identified by Tuesday afternoon, Lombardo said.

As for what may have set Paddock off, retired FBI profiler Jim Clemente speculated that there was "some sort of major trigger in his life—a great loss, a breakup, or maybe he just found out he has a terminal disease."

Clemente said a "psychological autopsy" may be necessary to try to establish the motive. If the suicide didn't destroy Paddock's brain, ex-

perts may even find a neurological disorder or malformation, he said.

He said there could be a genetic component to the slaughter: Paddock's father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s and was diagnosed a psychopath.

"The genetics load the gun, personality and psychology aim it, and experiences pull the trigger, typically," Clemente said.

Paddock had a business degree from Cal State Northridge. In the 1970s and '80s, he worked as a mail carrier and an IRS agent and held down a job in an auditing division of the Defense Department, according to the government. He later worked for a defense contractor.

He had no known criminal record, and public records showed no signs of financial troubles, though he was said to be a big gambler.

Nevada's Gaming Control Board said it will pass along records compiled on Paddock and his girlfriend to investigators.

His brother, Eric Paddock, said he was at a loss to explain the massacre.

"No affiliation, no religion, no politics. He never cared about any of that stuff," he said outside his Florida home.

Asia

Court asked to restore details of Kim Jong Nam post-mortem

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—Prosecutors asked a Malaysian court Wednesday to restore expunged details in the post-mortem report into the poisoning death of the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader.

The report had been presented as evidence Tuesday at the murder trial of the two women accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a brazen assassination at Kuala Lumpur's airport in February. The High Court had agreed on the removal of the case history and clinical history sections of the report after defense lawyers argued the content was based on hearsay.

The court also said the first two sentences in the summary and conclusion were inadmissible, in a ruling agreed to by prosecutors. But prosecutor Wah Shahrudin Wan Ladin told the court Wednesday his concession was premature.

He said the information in the history section was based on interviews done by one of two pathologists who wrote the report with a policeman, the airport clinic doctor and a hospital doctor. He said the information would not be hearsay or prejudicial since prosecutors will call the pathologist, the policeman and the doctors to the witness stand during the trial. The airport clinic doctor testified earlier this week in



Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong, center, is escorted by police as she leave the court house in Shah Alam, Malaysia, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017.

the trial that started Monday.

Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, lawyer for Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong, slammed the "complete U-turn" by prosecutors and said it was unacceptable as the court has ruled already.

The court took a short break Wednesday morning to consider the prosecution request.

On Tuesday, the court heard pathologists and doctors establish the cause of death for Kim. Doctors testified that Kim arrived at the airport clinic in pain with very high blood pressure and pulse, his vital signs deteriorated sharply

and he was dead on arrival at the hospital. Pathologists testified that Kim had been fatally poisoned by VX, a banned chemical weapon that was present on his face and clothing and internally in his blood and urine.

Huong and the second suspect, Siti Aisyah of Indonesia, have pleaded not guilty to murder, a charge for which they could face the death penalty if convicted. They have said they believed they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden-camera TV show and were tricked by men suspected of being North Korean agents.

spokesman, Zaw Htay, told The Associated Press on Tuesday the government will stick by its earlier decision to bar the U.N. mission. It has said the group, assembled after similar violence last October, is interfering in Myanmar's affairs. The diplomats, taken Monday on a guided government tour of the affected area, said in a joint statement that there is a dire need for humanitarian aid.

Thai police seeking Interpol notice for former PM's arrest

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai police said Tuesday they are seeking an international request for the arrest of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is believed to be in England after fleeing to Dubai to evade a prison sentence. Deputy Police Commissioner Gen. Srivara Rangsiabrahmanakul said the United Arab Emirates confirmed that Yingluck went from Dubai to England. He also said he asked the international police organization Interpol on Sunday to issue a red notice—a request to locate and provisionally arrest someone pending extradition—for Yingluck. Yingluck, whose government was ousted in a 2014 coup, was sentenced in absentia to five years' imprisonment on Sept. 27 for negligence in instituting a money-losing rice subsidy program. She fled Thailand before the verdict and has called the case against her politically motivated.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police say 2 Swedes wounded in rebel attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say two Swedish citizens and their Filipino driver were wounded, apparently in the crossfire, when communist guerrillas attempted to attack a police car in a central province. A police report said a Swedish man was shot in the wrist and a Swedish woman was injured in the shoulder, while their Filipino van driver was wounded in the face, stomach and thigh during the attack Tuesday by the New People's Army in a village in the coastal town of Cauayan in Negros Occidental province. The report said the five policemen in the patrol car, which was targeted by the insurgents, were not wounded. The rebels withdrew when army reinforcements arrived. The communist rebellion in the Philippines has raged for 48 years, making it one of Asia's longest.

Diplomats who toured Myanmar's Rakhine want access for aid

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A group of 20 foreign diplomats who visited Myanmar's Rakhine state, where half a million ethnic Rohingya Muslims fled recent violence, have urged the government to allow access by humanitarian groups and by a United Nations fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of human rights violations. But the president's office

World

Catalans stop work to protest police force during referendum

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Striking workers, students and hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Barcelona and other Catalan towns Tuesday to protest police violence, adding pressure to Spain's unprecedented political crisis as central authorities mull how to respond to separatists' plans to push ahead with secession.

Separatist leaders in Catalonia have vowed to declare independence in the northeastern region this week following Sunday's disputed referendum.

The central government has declared the vote illegal and invalid, but Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has not disclosed what his response to the independence bid will be, or if he intends to go as far as suspending the region's self-government.

The city's urban guard said that 700,000 people joined Tuesday afternoon's marches in Barcelona, after thousands more took part in scattered protests in the morning.

With protesters still in the streets, Spain's King Felipe VI made a television appearance in the evening and accused authorities in Catalonia of deliberately bending the law and undermining

coexistence, adding that the Spanish state has a duty to ensure unity and constitutional order in the country.

"Today, Catalan society is fractured," Felipe said in his address to the nation, referring to the political crisis as "very serious moments for our democratic life."

Catalan officials say that 90 percent of the 2.3 million people who voted Sunday were in favor of independence. But fewer than half of those eligible to vote turned out. The vote was boycotted by most of Spain's national parties on grounds that it was illegal and lacked basic guarantees, such as transparency, a proper census or an independent electoral governing body.

The king's call for unity and the blame put on the Catalan authorities was interpreted as laying the ground for an upcoming response from Rajoy. The prime minister held talks on Tuesday with national opposition leaders, but no multi-partisan consensus emerged from meetings.

"He made no mention of dialogue, and that's worrying," said Victor Lavagnini, a sports journalist who joined protests at the gates of the National Police headquarters in downtown Barcelona. "He seemed nervous, like every-

body is, but showed no sensibility toward the injured."

The strike affected bus and subway services, shops, schools and other businesses, and disoriented tourists scrambled to find open cafeterias to avoid the protests.

There were moments of tension when a handful of picketers forced the closure of shops that had remained open in the city's famed Las Ramblas boulevard, but elsewhere the demonstrations were largely peaceful.

Separatist groups and unions had initially called for strikes to be held in support of Catalan leaders pushing ahead with the independence declaration. But many non-separatists were also drawn to the streets following Sunday's crackdown on the referendum vote.

In Barcelona's Catalonia and University squares, a sea of demonstrators waved flags, most of them "esteladas" embraced by those wishing secession, but also plenty of Spanish national flags.

People are angry, very angry," said Josep Llavina, a 53-year-old self-employed worker who had traveled to Barcelona from a nearby town to participate in the protest outside the regional offices of Spain's National Police.

US travel warning troubles Cuba's small-business operators

HAVANA (AP)—A U.S. State Department travel warning for Cuba following mysterious attacks that harmed nearly two dozen American diplomats has come like a bucket of cold water for the aspirations of thousands of private entrepreneurs on the island.

Amid a sudden diplomatic thaw between the Cold War foes that began in 2014, many Cubans invested heavily in privately run restaurants, homestay B&Bs and cars to operate as taxi cabs in hopes of cashing in on an expected boom of American tourists.

But now entrepreneurs worry Americans will be frightened away—even though there has been no word of any tourists affected.

Nowhere are such fears more pronounced than in Old Havana, where many Cubans bought into a hot real estate market as part of a proliferation of B&Bs catering to the hordes of tourists who stroll its cobblestoned

streets each day.

"We got to work opening businesses, bars, restaurants, rental homes, and many people invested everything we had, and even borrowed," said Yunaika Estanque, the 51-year-old owner of a three-room hostel.

Estanque partnered with her parents and two children. They all sold other properties and sought additional financial backing from a friend who lives overseas, and two years ago bought a rickety colonial home steps from the Bay of Havana.

Today it has been spruced up and reborn as the Mi Tierra (My Land) hostel, whose polished vintage floors, warm pastel walls, republican-era furniture and modern air conditioning make for attractive and affordable digs at just \$35 a night per person plus \$5 more for breakfast.

Mi Tierra opened its doors about two months ago and has received mostly European travelers so far, but it's

Americans that Estanque truly has in mind long-term.

"American tourists consume a lot and leave good tips," said Estanque, who speaks English and uses it with guests to make them feel welcome. "Now there is going to be a lot of supply, but relatively little demand."

In addition to the travel warning announced Friday, the State Department also said it was reducing by about 60 percent its diplomatic staff at the U.S. Embassy in Havana and indefinitely suspending visa processing in Cuba. On Tuesday, Washington went further, expelling 15 Cuban diplomats to protest Havana's failure to protect American envoys from the attacks, which have not been explained.

The United States has not accused Cuba of being behind the attacks. President Raul Castro's government has disavowed any culpability and called the U.S. response "reckless," "hasty" and politically motivated.

Environment

Leaf blowers flagged as polluters, possible health threat

By **STUART SILVERSTEIN** and
ANNA BOIKO-WEYRAUCH
FAIRWARNING

Five years after starting his first job with a landscaping crew in the suburbs of Seattle, Fredi Dubon decided he had enough and quit. The workdays were long, sometimes 12 hours, but a bigger problem was having to inhale exhaust from his gas-powered leaf blower.

The fumes tended to be harshest in the cool mornings or when he ran his machine in the narrow yards of condo buildings. Eventually Dubon, an immigrant from El Salvador, said he was getting migraine headaches “pretty much every day,” a problem that both he and a doctor who examined him attributed to the exhaust from the blower.

Dubon joined a landscaping company that uses electric machines.

His headaches are only one of the possible hazards from gasoline-fueled lawn and garden equipment.

California’s approval of tightened air quality regulations, campaigns for leaf blower bans by activists around the country, and resolutions passed by the state medical societies of New York and Massachusetts highlighting health risks are beginning to draw more attention to the issue. At the same time, landscaping equipment manufacturers once accused of resisting a shift to electric machines, and that still push back against environmental regulations, are offering more so-called zero-emissions options.

Scant research exists on the potential health impact of emissions from the millions of gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, trimmers and related equipment. Yet, despite improvements, such machines still emit toxic contaminants such as carcinogenic benzene and large amounts of other smog-forming chemicals.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that emissions of smog-producing substances from mowers, blowers and other small off-road engines in 2016 were 81 percent as high as the amount from standard sedans. In the air pollution-plagued Los Angeles area, this category is projected to become a bigger contributor to smog than cars will be by around 2020.

Perhaps most worrisome, the gas engines release high

concentrations of microscopic ultrafine particles, as recently confirmed in tests commissioned by FairWarning. Ultrafine particles are unregulated, but scientists increasingly believe they are a serious danger. That is particularly true for landscaping workers, but also a potential concern for other adults and children who are exposed to the emissions. Ultrafine particles are 0.1 microns, or roughly one-thousandth the width of a human hair.

“The basic idea is that the smaller the particle, the deeper it can be inhaled into the lungs, and the more potential it has then to cause health problems” such as lung cancer, heart disease, strokes, asthma and other respiratory ailments, said Jo Kay Ghosh, an epidemiologist and the health effects officer for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, a pollution control agency covering much of Southern California. Ultrafine particles also can pass through cell membranes and slip into the bloodstream.

Unpublished, preliminary research by the California Air Resources Board suggested that the equipment operators were exposed to at least 10 times more ultrafine particles than if they were standing next to a busy road.

For workers who earn their living operating such equipment, “this is extremely alarming,” Michael T. Benjamin, chief of the board’s monitoring and laboratory division, said at a hearing last November.

More recent testing conducted by a consulting firm for FairWarning, involving six workers who were monitored while using 16 pieces of gas-powered equipment, detected even more dramatic surges of ultrafine particles. In one instance, ultrafine particle levels around an 11-year-old leaf blower were 50 times higher than at a nearby clogged intersection at rush hour. In same round of tests, with a 2017 model leaf blower, the ultrafine particle level was more than 40 times higher than at the busy intersection.

Standard, disposable “N95” masks or respirators available at hardware stores can protect against exhaust particles if they are fitted properly, which isn’t always easy. It takes more specialized respirators to filter out gases such as benzene. But because of cost, discomfort and lack of information, many workers don’t get any kind of



respiratory protection.

The air pollution puts yet another burden on the nation’s roughly 1 million landscaping workers, who frequently are low-income immigrants with few job alternatives. They also often endure intense leaf blower noise, which a Centers for Disease Control report this year said can cause permanent hearing loss.

Landscaping workers commonly say they feel the effects of breathing exhaust from gas-powered machines. The issue helped spur Dubon, the Seattle-area worker who complained of headaches, to begin last year leading job safety workshops for Casa Latina, a nonprofit day labor center and advocacy organization.

Some of the workers Dubon meets who use gas-powered equipment, he said, tell him “they feel dizzy or nauseous” after operating the machines.

Yet landscaping workers often are resigned to the fumes, noise and vibrations from their gas-powered machines. “You know you need to earn money and you have to work,” said Sergio Maldonado, a Guatemalan immigrant who has worked in Miami for 18 years.

“If you don’t do it, and you’re working for another person, they’ll fire you, and then who is going to bring home food?” he said.

Aside from possible hazards to landscaping workers, the gas-powered equipment pollutes the air breathed by everyone. That spurred the California Air Resources Board in November to approve tighter requirements for mowers, blowers, chainsaws and other small off-road engines, with broader restrictions expected

within a few years.

The small off-road engines category is challenging cars as a source of emissions that lead to smog, in part because cars burn gasoline much more cleanly than they once did. In one comparison, California officials said the contamination from running a top-sell-

ing leaf blower for one hour matches the emissions from driving a 2016 Toyota Camry for 1,100 miles. The pollutants in the leaf blower vs. car comparisons are oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic gases.

“You think about how much focus there is on reducing emissions from cars, and

TNS
What are the health risks caused by using leafblowers?

rightfully so, but how little we focused on these engines,” said Bill Magavern, policy director for the Coalition for Clean Air, a California-based advocacy group. Magavern called the emissions comparisons “stunning” and said, “It just, to me, shows why we really need to pay a lot more attention to reducing emissions from this sector.”

Nationally, the EPA generally has followed California’s lead in regulating emissions from landscaping equipment.

But the industry that makes these machines, which last year had estimated wholesale sales in the U.S. approaching \$11 billion, has fought hard to fend off regulation. A high-profile battle erupted in 2003 when Briggs & Stratton—which describes itself as the world’s largest producer of gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment—unsuccessfully tried to thwart new rules in California.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

Susana Ines Tenorio Mafnas

Lovingly remembered as “Sue”



To our families and friends, we are deeply touched by and grateful for your love, presence, and support. Thank you for your prayers during the daily masses and nightly rosaries, your thoughtfulness through visits, messages, and letters, and generosity through gifts. Thank you also for sharing memories of our beloved mom’s infectious smile, of her kind and loving ways, and of your special times with her.

We are forever grateful and will always remember your love and compassion.

May our Loving and Merciful God Bless Us All.

The Children and Families of
 † Jesus P. and † Susana T. Mafnas

Life & Style

Musicians and celebrities pay tribute to rocker Tom Petty



Flowers and messages adorn the star of Tom Petty And The Heartbreakers on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Tuesday Oct. 3, 2017 in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reaction to the death of rock superstar Tom Petty, who died Monday after suffering cardiac arrest at his Malibu home:

■ “Tommy’s passing feels like I’ve lost a little brother. Growing up together in Gainesville and seeing one of my students blossom as an incredibly gifted musician and songwriter has been one of my most fulfilling experiences in this life. It was obvious very early on in his career that his talent, magnetism and charisma were a very special gift that few souls in this world are given. He has given this world so many wonderful memories and touched millions with his magic. Gone

far too soon. May he rest in peace knowing how much he is loved and appreciated by all of us that are left behind.”—former Eagles member Don Felder on Facebook.

■ “I’m shocked and saddened by the news of Tom’s passing, he’s such a huge part of our musical history, there’ll never be another like him.”—Eric Clapton in a statement.

“I loved Tom Petty and I covered his songs because I wanted know what it felt like to fly.”—singer-songwriter John Mayer on Twitter.

■ “Devastating news about #TomPetty A profound loss. Sad sad day today. RIP”—rocker Slash on Instagram.

■ “RIP @tompetty you

will be missed. A music legend #GoneButNeverForgotten” Aerosmith drummer Joey Kramer on Twitter.

■ “Through his work with the Heartbreakers and The Traveling Wilburys he’s left us with an incredibly legacy to enjoy forever, it’s such a shame he has left us way before his time.”—Def Leppard singer Joe Elliot on Twitter.

■ “It is so rare to find someone who commands such universal respect in the business. He was a rock n roll lifer with music in his blood. This man delivered a wealth of great songs to his fans and to the world and that is something to celebrate.”—rocker Alice Cooper, on Twitter.

■ “I feel Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers is the best American rock band, ever. He is both a peer and an inspiration to me. I am heartbroken at his passing, and my deep sympathy goes out to his family and loved ones.”—REO Speedwagon’s Kevin Cronin on Facebook.

■ “Always felt good to know Tom Petty was out there in the world making up beautiful words and music. Sad today but grateful forever.”—singer Richard Marx on Twitter.

■ “Safe passages to the summerlands, brother. You couldn’t have left more dreams here for us. Thank you. RIP”—rocker Ryan Ad-

ams on Twitter.

■ “Tom Petty was a stud. Very few super cool dudes from the old school left. Actual talent. Rough to hear the news”—actor-comedian David Spade on Twitter.

■ “Tom was a true rock and roll purist, both in his music and his defiant spirit. With the Heartbreakers, his infectious riffs, rebellious personal-

ity, and inventive songwriting brought a new urgency to rock traditions and fueled a now legendary career and some of the most memorable music of the last four decades.”—Recording Academy President/CEO Neil Portnow in a statement.

■ “So sad about Tom Petty, he made some great music. Thoughts are with his family.”—Mick Jagger via Twitter.

Jackie Chan feels ‘useless’ in wake of the Las Vegas attack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jackie Chan wishes he could have used his iconic, on-screen martial arts skills to help those hurt at Sunday’s mass shooting in Las Vegas.

“A lot of young kids say ‘Jackie, you’re a superhero. You’re hero.’ I really want to be any superhero (so) I can fly around the world, save the people, beat up the bad people, put them in the jail. But sometimes I watch this, I’m just useless. Only thing I can do is pray, pray for them,” Chan said in an interview Tuesday.

The rampage by Stephen Paddock killed at least 59 people and injured 527 others at the Route 91 Harvest Festival.

Chan does get the chance to battle terrorists in his new action-thriller “The Foreigner,” opening Oct. 13. The actor takes a dramatic turn as a grief-stricken father hunting a rogue IRA cell responsible for an explosion that killed his daughter.

“I hope through the movie (to) tell the people stop this kind of violent things,” Chan said. “It’s a good message to tell, stop these kind of terror things, stop the bombing, stop hurting innocent people.”

Other films canceled and scaled back promotion in the wake of the attack in Las

Vegas — something Chan thought long and hard about.

“Yes, it is challenging,” he said of continuing the film’s promotional tour, which includes Thursday’s Los Angeles premiere. “Asked what should I do? Should we change? Should we cancel? And you know I’m really a foreigner in another country. I don’t know what to do. You know, what should I say? Anything I can (do to) help?”

At 63, the Hong Kong star is hoping to prove he can do more than martial arts.

“I want to be a true actor. I don’t want audiences to keep thinking I’m an action star. One day I’m getting old, I cannot fight anymore. I want to be a Robert De Niro. I want to be a Clint Eastwood,” he explained. “They are true actors, but they can fight!”

Chan says a romantic lead in a musical would be a dream gig.

“I’d love to do it! I want to be something special. I want to be in a musical action comedy movie. You know fighting with singing, dancing,” Chan said. “Of course if a director hire me to do some kind of ‘La La Land’ and ‘Sound of Music,’ I’d love to do it. I really do try everything, anything.”

Prolific, melodic and deep: 5 Tom Petty songs to appreciate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If it feels like Tom Petty’s hits with the Heartbreakers have been on the radio for decades, that’s because they have. The classics “American Girl” and “Breakdown” were on the band’s 1976 debut album.

Petty, who died late Monday, was more than just a rock star and electrifying live performer. He was a writer and craftsman who added scores of songs to rock’s lexicon.

The chief songwriter on his 13 albums with the Heartbreakers and various other projects, Petty delivered hits so steadily, a drummer could keep time with them: “I Need to Know” (1978), “Refugee” (1979), “The Waiting” (1981), “You Got Lucky” (1982), “Don’t Come Around Here No More” (1985), “Free Fallin’,” “I Won’t Back Down” and “Runnin’ Down a Dream” (1989), “Learning to Fly” (1991), “Mary Jane’s Last Dance” (1993), “You Don’t Know How it Feels” (1994) and more.

Amid the trove of memorable music Petty left behind, here are five more gems worth appreciating:

■ “Even the Losers” (1979): With a chorus that asserts, “Even the losers get lucky sometimes,” this song was bound to become an anthem; one of many hits from

the “Damn the Torpedoes” album, which also includes “Refugee,” “Here Comes My Girl” and “Don’t Do Me Like That.”

■ “Stop Draggin’ My Heart Around” (1981): This single from Stevie Nicks’ solo album debut has a storied origin: Legendary producer Jimmy Iovine, who was dating Nicks and producing Petty and the Heartbreakers’ album “Hard Promises” at the time, convinced Petty and co-writer Mike Campbell to allow Nicks to record the song.

■ “It Ain’t Nothin’ to Me” (1985): Written with Dave Stewart of the Eu-

rythmics, this rocking track from Petty and the Heartbreakers’ “Southern Accents” album channels a frustration with reality that couldn’t be more timely.

■ “Yer So Bad” (1989): One of many standouts from Petty’s multiplatinum solo debut, “Full Moon Fever,” this schadenfreude-flavored collaboration with Jeff Lynne showcases a shimmering 12-string sound.

■ “End of the Line” (1989): Petty sings the verses on this life-affirming single written with his idols—Lynne, Bob Dylan, George Harrison and Roy Orbison—as part of the Traveling Wilburys.



Jackie Chan poses for a portrait to promote his film, “The Foreigner” at the Four Seasons on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 in Los Angeles.

Country star Jason Aldean cancels tour dates after shooting

Country star Jason Aldean is cancelling three upcoming tour dates after a mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas out of respect for the victims and to take time to mourn.

The singer was onstage Sunday when a gunman shot at the Route 91 Harvest festival. Aldean said in a statement Tuesday that this weekend's shows scheduled for Los Angeles, San Diego and Anaheim, California, would be cancelled and he would resume his tour on Oct. 12 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"It has been an emotional time for everyone involved this week, so we plan to take some time to mourn the ones we have lost and be close with our family and friends," he said. He also issued a rallying cry for Americans to come together. (AP)



Jason Aldean performs at the 2013 CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Jennifer Lopez cancels Las Vegas performances after shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Jennifer Lopez is canceling her Las Vegas performances this week out of respect to the victims of the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history.

The entertainer on Tuesday announced the postponement of her "Jennifer Lopez: All I Have" appearances. Performances set for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday will be rescheduled, and tickets will be refunded or replaced.

An attack Sunday night at a music festival outside the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas killed 59 people and injured more than 500.

Lopez has been a resident performer at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino since February and is set to continue her "All I Have" show there through June 2018.

Lopez says she is heartbroken over the "senseless tragedy" and is keeping the victims and their families in her thoughts and prayers.

Appeals court to consider defamation case against Bill Cosby

BOSTON (AP)—A federal appeals court is set to examine a defamation lawsuit filed against Bill Cosby by a woman who claims he raped her decades ago.

Katherine McKee is asking the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston on Wednesday to reinstate her lawsuit against Cosby, which a federal judge in Massachusetts dismissed in February.

The former actress says

Cosby defamed her in a letter that his lawyer sent to the New York Daily News demanding a retraction of a 2014 story about McKee's rape allegations.

McKee's lawyer says the letter was a "purposeful attack" on her character and reputation made with "ill will, malevolence and evil intent."

The judge who dismissed the lawsuit said Cosby's letter was protected by the First Amendment.

Kate Winslet boards James Cameron's 'Avatar' universe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's a titanic reunion—Kate Winslet is joining the "Avatar" franchise, reuniting the actress with "Titanic" director James Cameron.

A spokesperson for 20th Century Fox confirmed the news Tuesday. It was first reported by the online trade publication Deadline.

According to Deadline, Winslet will be playing a character named Ronal, but no word on just how many



of the films she'll be part of. Cameron said that they had been looking to work together again for 20 years.

Four "Avatar" sequels are planned to be released in December of 2020, 2021, 2024 and 2025.

In this Jan. 17, 2016 file photo, Kate Winslet poses for photographers at the Critics Circle Awards at a central London venue, London. AP



In this Aug. 22, 2017 file photo Bill Cosby departs Montgomery County Courthouse after a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case in Norristown, Pa. AP

Aerosmith's Steven Tyler talks health after tour cut short

Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler is disputing rumors about his health after an early end to the band's tour, saying he "certainly did not have a heart attack or seizure."

The 69-year-old Tyler says in a statement posted on the band's website that he's sorry for cutting the tour short, but he had to have a medical procedure that only his doctor in the United States could perform.

Aerosmith announced last week that it was canceling the tour's final four shows in Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Mexico. Tyler said in that announcement that his condition wasn't life threatening, but it was something he needed to deal with immediately. (AP)

Aerosmith announced last week that it was canceling the tour's final four shows in Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Mexico. Tyler said in that announcement that his condition wasn't life threatening, but it was something he needed to deal with immediately. (AP)



In this May 26, 2017, file photo, singer Steven Tyler performs during an Aerosmith concert at the Koenigsplatz in Munich, Germany. AP

Boys who are being boys cause married woman angst

DEAR ABBY: I'm a happily married woman in my 30s. Although we don't have children yet, many of our friends do. Some of them have boys who are approaching or are already in their early teens.

I'm embarrassed to even ask, but what are the best ways to avoid or immediately stop unwanted just-reaching-puberty attention from young boys? I am modest in my attire, I don't interact more than I need to with them and I would never want to harm a child. But the looks and actions I get from some of them have my stomach churning. I need to know how to appropriately shut it down.

My husband just chuckles and shrugs his shoulders, saying, "They just want to talk to girls." I feel sick. Please help.

UNWANTED ATTENTION

DEAR UNWANTED ATTENTION: Unless you have left something out of your letter, what the boys are doing is normal adolescent boy behavior. However, because you feel some of them have crossed the line, you should tell their parents.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law visits from out of state each year and stays with us for about a week. When she's here she invites her friends to our house and entertains them without asking us if we mind. I feel it's extremely rude, but my husband says we

need to "put up and shut up" because she's family. I feel she could easily go to their homes to visit instead of inviting everyone here.

Is my husband correct? Am I wrong thinking she's being inappropriate as a houseguest?

CONFUSED HOST IN THE EAST

DEAR CONFUSED: As your houseguest, your sister-in-law should have been asking you and your husband whether you minded having her friends over during her visit. She should also have bought food and beverages to accommodate them, and a house gift for the two of you. However, because she has been getting away with it for years, do not expect her to change. The time to have spoken up was the first time she did it.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 22 and I'm sick and tired of letting myself get caught up with men who are already in a relationship, "half-way" single, or claim to just occupy the same house as their ex. I know some people may say I don't know what a real relationship is, or I should be enjoying my 20s instead of worrying about a serious relationship, but I have an old soul. I know I'm different from most people my age.

Could I be attracting the wrong men, or could it be my preferences in men? How can I go about attracting the right

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

young man who wants the same things I do and isn't already tied to someone?

WANTS MY OWN MAN

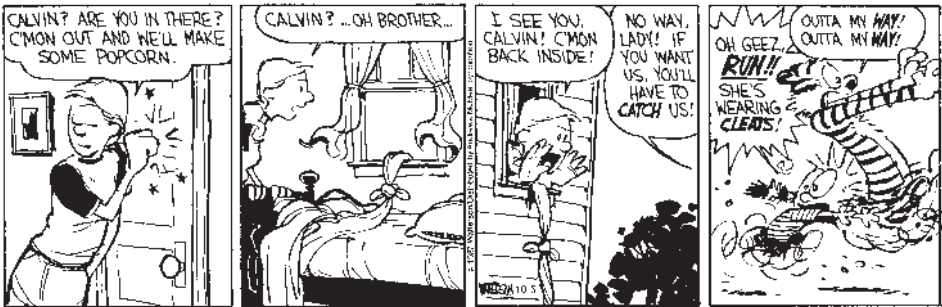
DEAR WANTS YOUR OWN MAN: Where are you meeting the men you mentioned in your letter? If it's happening in bars and clubs, it's time to change venues. As my dear departed grandfather used to say, "You won't catch trout in a herring barrel."

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

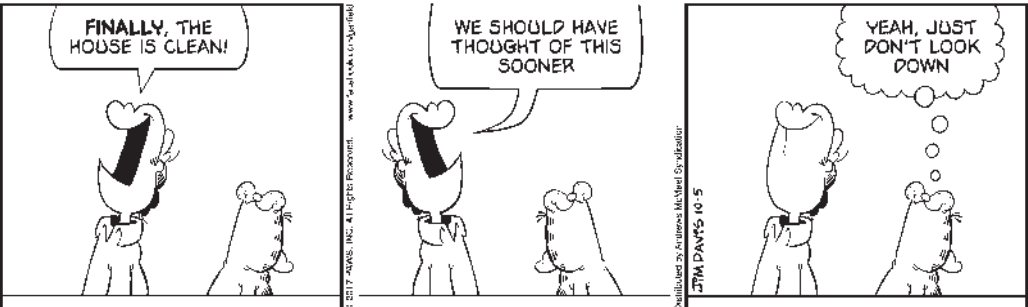
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Expert 55 Weeps 22 Piquant
1 Cook-ware 37 Gullet 23 Canape
5 Hay unit 38 Light-headed 24 Parcel of land
9 "Veep" 40 Bell or Barker 25 —
12 Mayberry 41 Pablo Casals' 26 Cordelia's dad
13 "Young Frankenstein" role 43 Thrilling feeling 27 Roe provider
14 "A mouse!" 47 "Norma —" 29 Cagers' gp.
15 Listen 48 About 5.88 30 Morning moisture
17 In the style of 588 35 Be sick
18 Vast trillion miles 37 Big gorge
19 "Strange as it seems ..." 51 Simile part 39 Hands (out)
21 Infinitive 52 Jacob's twin 40 Cam-bridge sch.
22 Parsley piece 54 Mal de — 41 Stuff tightly
24 Huron, for one 50 Poorly lit
27 Resort
28 Repair
31 Kimono sash
32 Smack
33 Honest politician
34 Albacore, e.g.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterdays answer 10-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Eisenberg, 34; Kate Winslet, 42; Guy Pearce, 50; Mario Lemieux, 52.

Happy Birthday: Take one step at a time. Plan your actions and do whatever it takes to use your talents, skills, experience and knowledge to get where you want to go. Being thorough and precise every step of the way will help you avoid making impulsive decisions that run the risk of costing too much or failing to produce. Your numbers are 3, 12, 24, 27, 32, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be pulled in different directions personally and professionally. Consider your choices and what makes the most sense to you. Being able to use your skills and experience to reach a satisfying goal should be your priority. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel pressured to make a move or react to a proposition. Time is on your side, and figuring out how you want to approach the situation should be done with patience and intelligence. Personal growth and physical activity are favored. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your knowledge, experience and intelligence to help you get ahead. An opportunity to make a change that will help you out financially should be looked at carefully. Partnerships are encouraged, but don't let anyone negotiate on your behalf. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An unexpected change will catch you off guard. Try not to act impulsively when time,

consideration and facts will be required to get a true sense of what's going on. Don't feel obligated to take part in something that appears risky. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your passionate way of expressing your feelings, ideas and concerns will leave a good impression on someone you'd like to work with. Travel and communication will lead to an opportunity to excel. An unexpected offer looks promising. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't mix money and emotions. You can't buy love or happiness. Invest in yourself, not someone else. Use common sense and intelligence when it comes to finances, negotiations and medical issues. Protect your integrity and your reputation. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotional situation is best dealt with responsibly. Partnerships are best handled with care. Choose your words wisely. If someone pushes you, back away and do your own thing. Play it safe and avoid controversy. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): People you try to help will cause you emotional uncertainty. Do what you can, but don't feel bad if it isn't enough. Change will come at a price, and you have to examine all sides of a situation before you move forward. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Use your intelligence to make the best choices at work and at home. If someone tries to push you, take note, then continue to take care of your responsibilities. The best way to make a difference is to do the right thing. *****

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen attentively and consider your options, but let common sense and practicality guide your choices. A lot of hype can't make up for a flawed idea or pitch someone is making. Stick to your budget. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Come up with a new financial plan. Blend what you love to do with earning extra cash and you will have a winning situation that will impress your friends and family. Alter your environment at home to suit your current prospects. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen and respond carefully. You can influence your position or reputation if you are open to change and keep up to date on new trends in technology. Speak from the heart and live up to your promises. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and generous. You are reliable and easygoing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FUN WITH A PINATA Solution: 11 letters

G B E H C A M R E P A P U L L
G N I R T S K C O N K A E R B
G N I S T E S A E L E R S L Y
A E I W N N S N A S I T R A E
T K Y O S W E E T S A Y D N K
H O R C Y E C L S E S H S O N
E R E L D A I A R R T I D I O
R B T O R F M T A R A T I T A L
I F T T O A S E I E R S K A L
N L O H C E Y B D V S Y C R S
G O P I I W D E C O I O I B T
N U J D E E D M U L C T T E I
A R N N W O D E M A G N S L U
H A D U L T S H O N O R I E R
C O L O R S I T T E F N O C F

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Adults, Artisans, Birthday, Break, Broken, Candies, Cartoon, Celebration, Cinco De Mayo, Cloth, Colors, Confetti, Donkey, Down, Festivities, Flour, Fruits, Game, Gathering, Gum, Hang, Hit, Honor, Jicamas, Kids, Knock, Lent, Love, New Year's, Paper Maché, Party, Pottery, Pull, Release, Sing, Stars, Stick, String, Sweets, Swing, Theme, Toys, Treats

Yesterdays Answer: Walking

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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FAX: (670) 322-7800

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF DOLORES MALUS, DECEASED.)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0207)
NOTICE OF HEARING)
AND NOTICE OF CREDITORS)

TO: THE HEIRS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND THE CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

You are hereby notified that John Mareham Tagabuel of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of Dolores Malus, deceased. The attorney of record for the petitioner is Rexford C. Kosack, whose address is P.O. Box 500410, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing is set for October 26, 2017 at 9:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in Courtroom 220 of the Commonwealth Superior Court at the Guma Hustucia, Susupe, Saipan. All interested parties should appear at that time. All persons having claims against the deceased or her estate are required to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim will be forever barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to Rexford C. Kosack at the above-mentioned address.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2017.

/s/ PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

REXFORD C. KOSACK
GLENN A. JEWELL
LAW OFFICES OF REXFORD C. KOSACK
SECOND FLOOR, BANK OF HAWAII BUILDING
P.O. BOX 500410
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL.: (670) 322-8800
FAX: (670) 322-7800

ATTORNEYS FOR PETITIONER

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF SOLEDAD TAGABUEL OGUMORO, DECEASED.)
CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0208)
NOTICE OF HEARING)
AND NOTICE OF CREDITORS)

TO: THE HEIRS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND THE CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

You are hereby notified that Ambrosio Tagabuel Ogumoro of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of Soledad Tagabuel Ogumoro, deceased. The attorney of record for the petitioner is Rexford C. Kosack, whose address is P.O. Box 500410, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing is set for October 26, 2017 at 9:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in Courtroom 220 of the Commonwealth Superior Court at the Guma Hustucia, Susupe, Saipan. All interested parties should appear at that time. All persons having claims against the deceased or her estate are required to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim will be forever barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to Rexford C. Kosack at the above-mentioned address. Dated this 26th day of September, 2017.

/s/ PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

Rudy M. Camacho
P.O. Box 504761
287-2997

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the) FCD CN
Petition for the) CIVIL ACTION
Change of Name of:) NO. 17-0471
Rudolfo M. Camacho)
Petitioner) **NOTICE OF
HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217 before Honorable Judge Terese Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: One good turn deserves another

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**Northern Marianas Humanities Council**
Navigating the Human Experience

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council**

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce four vacancies on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross-section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four time annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Frankie M. Eliptico, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2017. For additional information please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

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Bullpen, homers lift Yankees past Twins



NEW YORK
(AP)—Aaron Judge, Didi

Gregorius and a brilliant bullpen rescued New York from a rugged start and lifted the Yankees to their first postseason victory in five years.

Gregorius' three-run homer tied the score after Minnesota knocked out Luis Severino in the first inning, a pumped-up Judge showed his most emotion this season when he hit a two-run shot in his playoff debut and the Yankees beat the Twins 8-4 Tuesday night in the AL wild-card game.

Brett Gardner also homered for the Yankees, who chased Ervin Santana after two innings and once again eliminated the Twins from the playoffs.

Chad Green, David Robertson, Tommy Kahnle and Aroldis Chapman combined for 8 2/3 innings of one-run, five-hit relief, striking out 13 to tie the postseason record for a bullpen.

"It was just remarkable," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

New York opens a best-of-five Division Series on Thursday at the AL Central champion Indians.

"We're not done yet," Judge said. "We've just got to keep it rolling in Cleveland."

The Twins lost their 13th consecutive postseason game, tying the record set by Boston from 1986-95.

Brian Dozier led off the game with a home run and Ed-



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, slides safely into third as Minnesota Twins third baseman Eduardo Escobar leaps to avoid him during the seventh inning of the American League wild-card playoff baseball game in New York, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017.

die Rosario hit a two-run drive as the Twins burst to a quick lead and stunned the sellout crowd of 49,280 at Yankee Stadium.

But Santana was little better than Severino, going to full counts on eight of 11 batters. Gregorius erased the lead four batters into the bottom of the first, and Santana was removed after six outs

and 64 pitches with the Twins trailing 4-3.

"You can sit here and try to imagine if it was 0-0 after the first what it would have felt like compared to scoring three and giving three back," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "It's the exhilaration of jumping out ... and then the deflation of giving it back so quickly."

Minnesota, the first team to rebound from a 100-loss season and make the playoffs the following year, has been eliminated by the Yankees in five of its last six postseason appearances and has not won a playoff series since 2002.

Judge, the 6-foot-7 sensation who set a rookie record with 52 home runs, was given a Ruthian ovation, with sev-

eral sections of fans holding signs in his honor spelling out "All Rise!" He scored three runs, hitting a single to help ignite the first-inning rally, smoking a 108 mph home run off loser Jose Berrios in the fourth and walking in the seventh and coming home when Alan Busenitz walked Jacoby Ellsbury with the bases loaded. Judge shouted in excite-

ment as he rounded first base after the homer, his face flush with emotion.

"This place was rocking. It was incredible," he said.

New York had made only one postseason appearance since 2012, losing the 2015 wild-card game to Houston 3-0. Just three Yankees who started that game were in the starting lineup, part of a Baby Bombers movement that purged the roster of veterans.

At 23, Severino was the youngest Yankees postseason starter since Andy Pettitte in 1995. The right-hander lasted only 29 pitches on a crisp autumn night and matched the Yankees' shortest postseason start, by Bob Turley in Game 2 of the 1958 World Series and Art Ditmar in the 1960 World Series opener. Dozier homered into the left-field seats on a 99 mph fastball and Rosario lined a slider just over the right-field short porch.

Severino was shaking his head as walked to the dug-out and Green replaced him with runners at second and third. Green struck out Byron Buxton and Jason Castro, then fanned three in a row in the second.

Green gave up Jorge Polanco's single and a pair of walks in the third. Robertson came in with the bases loaded and allowed Buxton's RBI ground-er, then struck out Castro.

Robertson tired in the sixth but earned the win, leaving after 52 pitches and 3 1/3 innings -- both career highs.

Kahnle relieved with a runner on and retired Joe Mauer on a flyout to the warning track. After Kahnle threw 2 1/3 innings, Chapman struck out three around a hit in the ninth.

A pitcher named Santana—Johan Santana—beat the Yankees for the Twins' last postseason win in 2004. But Ervin Santana contributed to a first inning that lasted 45 minutes and three innings that took 1:43. His career postseason ERA climbed to 6.57.

Gardner walked leading off, Judge poked a single to center and Gregorius lined a fastball over the right-field scoreboard. Brushed off the plate by a 2-2 pitch in the second, Gardner sent Santana's next offering into the second deck in right for a 4-3 lead.

Green struck out the side in the second, but left in the third after a leadoff single and two walks loaded the bases. Buxton hit into a run-scoring forceout before Robertson struck out Castro, and the Yankees went ahead for good in the bottom half when Gary Sanchez doubled off Berrios leading off and scored on Greg Bird's two-out single.

New Marlins owner Jeter mum on future of Stanton, Mattingly

MIAMI (AP)—Back in the ballgame, Derek Jeter says he'll learn on the job as he tries to lead the Miami Marlins out of the wilderness.

How Jeter expects to get there remains a secret, even after his first public comments about the Marlins since beginning his pursuit of the team nearly a year ago. The rookie owner declined to discuss his plans, and whether they include Giancarlo Stanton, Don Mattingly or even the home run sculpture at Marlins Park.

"You're trying to get me to tell you what I'm going to do?" Jeter said. "Some things you keep private. But yeah, we do have to rebuild."

Jeter and new principal owner Bruce Sherman held a 30-minute news conference Tuesday to discuss their investment group's \$1.2 billion purchase of the Marlins. Jeter shed no light on an anticipated roster shake-up following the team's eighth consecutive losing season, the longest streak in the majors, but said he'll rely heavily this offsea-

son on president of baseball operations Michael Hill.

"I'm not coming in here thinking I know everything about team ownership. I do not," Jeter said. "One thing I'm good at is knowing what I do not know. I surround myself with people who are much smarter than I am."

"We have some wonderful people who are working in this organization now. We are going to add some quality people as well to help us turn this organization around."

The former New York Yankees captain attended Miami's season finale Sunday—the first time he sat in the stands since high school. Yet another Miami loss didn't change his mind, and the next day Jeter and Sherman closed on the purchase of the team from Jeffrey Loria.

Jeter said he hasn't met with any players, and wouldn't address the future of Stanton, the major league home run and RBI champion. Stanton's salary will nearly double next year to \$25 million, which could

make him unaffordable for the revenue-challenged franchise.

Loria became widely unpopular because his frugality led to constant roster turnover and lots of losing. Jeter acknowledged speculation that another payroll purge looms.

"I don't like the word tear-down," Jeter said. "Moving forward, there are going to be unpopular decisions we make. We have a plan, but at the same time we have to have patience."

Jeter said he met Monday with Mattingly, his former Yankees teammate, who has two years to go on a four-year contract as manager.

"It has been a long season," Jeter said. "I told him to get out of here and go enjoy himself and get back to his family. We'll sit down when the time is right and evaluate everyone."

Jeter and Sherman also wouldn't discuss plans for the garish home run sculpture—loved by some, hated by many.

"I read I was getting rid of it," said Jeter, who added that's not necessarily true.

"Every one of our partners has an opinion," Sherman said with a smile.

There are at least eight other investors. Jeter took exception to speculation that his group struggled to raise the needed money.

"It upset a lot of our investors. They have plenty of money," he said, before smiling and adding a clarification. "They might not have plenty of money now, but they had plenty of money."

The investment group bought a team in debt after finishing last in the NL in attendance 12 of the past 13 years.

"We have to engage the community," said Sherman, a venture capitalist who has a home in Naples, Florida. "With Derek's leadership, it's going to be a great opportunity to do that. It is going to be a long-term process."

Sherman has the highest equity stake at about 46 percent. Jeter has about a 4 percent stake, and he'll lead baseball and business operations as chief executive officer.

Jeter, who lives in Tampa, Florida, said he'll be a hands-on owner.

"The vast majority of my time will be working for the Marlins," he said. "You have to be present. You have to be involved."

He spent 20 years with the Yankees and won five World Series rings before retiring in 2014, and often talked of wanting to own a ballclub. Now he does.

"I like competing," Jeter said. "I don't miss playing the game, but I miss being part of a team."

Meanwhile, in Seattle, the Mariners will not bring back bench coach Tim Lincecum and first base coach Casey Candaele next season.

Seattle announced the changes Tuesday for Bogar and Candaele, who had been with the Mariners for two seasons.

Manny Acta will take over for Bogar as bench coach and Scott Brosius will move from assistant coach to third base coach. Chris Prieto will move from being a special projects coach in charge of replay to first base coach for next season.

Carmelo sharp in OKC debut, but Rockets still win



TULSA (AP)—Carmelo Anthony sizzled in his first game with the Thunder, though Chris Paul and the Rockets look like they will be just fine without him.

Houston overcame Anthony's 19 points in just 20 minutes and Paul George's 15, spoiling their Oklahoma City debuts with a 104-97 victory on Tuesday night.

Paul had 11 points and seven assists in his Houston debut. The Rockets tried to acquire Anthony after getting Paul, but couldn't work out a deal during their summer-long discussions with the New York Knicks, who instead dealt their leading scorer to Oklahoma City on the eve of training camp.

"Being happy out there on the court again, being excited, being motivated to be out there on the court again, it's back for me," Anthony said. "That feeling is back for me."

But the Rockets, who had one of the NBA's most potent offenses last season, might not need the extra scoring. James Harden had 16 points and 10 assists, Sixth Man of the Year Eric Gordon scored 21 points, and the Rockets made 24 3-pointers. Gordon had six and Trevor Ariza hit five on his way to 18 points.

MVP Russell Westbrook didn't play for Oklahoma City.

The Knicks played their first game without Anthony, losing to the Brooklyn Nets.

Nets 115, Knicks 107

D'Angelo Russell scored 19 points in his Nets debut to help Brooklyn take the first of two preseason meetings between the city rivals.

Acquired in a trade with the Lakers, the former No. 2 pick started in the backcourt with Jeremy Lin, who struggled to a 2-for-9 night and scored eight points.

Enes Kanter, acquired from Oklahoma City in the Anthony trade, and Tim Hardaway



Jr. each scored 17 points for the Knicks.

Sean Kilpatrick scored 15 points. Brooklyn was 16 for 32 (50 percent) from 3-point range. ... Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and Joe Harris each scored 13 points. Spencer Dinwiddie and Quincy Acy had

12 apiece. The Nets played without Allen Crabbe and Caris LeVert because of ankle injuries.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 15 points. First-round pick Frank Ntilikina of France came off the bench and scored five points on 1-for-7 shoot-

ing from the field. Hardaway made five 3-pointers.

Brooklyn (1-0) hosts Miami on Thursday. New York (0-1) visits Washington on Friday.

Bulls 113, Pelicans 109

Cristiano Felicio scored 15

points and the Bulls overcame a strong performance from the All-Star tandem of Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins in New Orleans.

Davis had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Cousins added 20 points and 10 boards.

Nikola Mirotic and Jus-

AP
Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) shoots as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Carmelo Anthony (7) defends during the first quarter of an NBA preseason basketball game in Tulsa, Okla., Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017.

tin Holiday each scored 14 points. Rookie Lauri Markkanen, whose rights Chicago acquired when they traded Jimmy Butler to Minnesota, didn't play because of back spasms. He is expected to miss the Bulls' first two preseason games. Denzel Valentine made four 3-pointers for his 12 points.

Rajon Rondo started against the team he played for last season and finished with five points, eight assists and four rebounds. Davis and Cousins each played about 33 minutes, Rondo 31 and Jrue Holiday almost 30. Dante Cunningham was the only starter below 20 minutes. Cunningham is starting in place of forward Solomon Hill, who is not expected back until February because of hamstring tear. E'Twaun Moore scored 16 points.

Chicago (1-0) visits Dallas on Wednesday. New Orleans (0-1) visits Oklahoma City on Friday.

Suns 114, Trail Blazers 112

TJ Warren scored 23 points and the Suns rallied with a 41-point fourth quarter in Portland.

Damian Lillard had 18 points for the Trail Blazers.

No. 4 overall selection Josh Jackson scored 14 points. Devin Booker had 19 points. Alex Len finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Rookie Caleb Swanigan scored 18 points. Fellow rookie Zach Collins was limited to five points but had a team-high eight rebounds. Jusuf Nurkic had 16 points. CJ McCollum shot just 4 for 13 for his 10 points.

NBA changes All-Star Game format; captains will pick teams

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA is scrapping the East vs. West format for its All-Star Game and will have captains pick teams this season.

The league said Tuesday the two starters with the highest fan vote totals from each conference will choose teams from the pool of players who were voted as starters and reserves.

The change will begin with this season's game in Los Angeles on Feb. 18.

Players and league officials

have been eager to inject new interest in the often defense-absent game, and they decided to act after another dull affair last February in New Orleans.

"I'm thrilled with what the players and the league have done to improve the All-Star Game, which has been a priority for all of us," National Basketball Players Association president Chris Paul of the Houston Rockets said in a statement. "We're looking

forward to putting on an entertaining show in L.A."

The sides worked closely—with Charlotte owner Michael Jordan, chairman of the league's Labor Relations Committee, heavily involved in the conversations—and chose a format that has been used by the NFL and NHL for what will be the first NBA All-Star Game that doesn't pit the Eastern Conference against the Western Conference.

The 10 starters will contin-

ue to be chosen by a combination of fan, player and media balloting, with the coaches from each conference then selecting the 14 reserves. The captains will then draft their teams at an undetermined time—making certain that those chosen starters are split up so they remain starters.

The teams will play for charity. They will select either a Los Angeles-area or national organization for donations to go.

Mickelson's final mission: Win a Ryder Cup in Europe



JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Phil Mickelson hasn't had his fill, not when it comes to the Cup.

Especially the next one.

Mickelson saved some of his best golf in one of his worst years for when it really counted. Steve Stricker wanted to see some life from Lefty before deciding to use a captain's pick on him for the Presidents Cup, and Mickelson delivered with four rounds in the 60s at the TPC Boston to tie for sixth.

The pick extended his record streak to 23 consecutive teams, and Mickelson deliv-

ered another strong performance on the course and in the team room. He went 3-0-1 at Liberty National, one of four Americans to go unbeaten.

But it was a passing comment in Chicago, the week after he was chosen for the Presidents Cup, that shed some insight into his immediate future. He is starting a new season this week at the Safeway Open, which was expected because his management company runs the tournament.

"Looks like I'm probably going to go to China, too," Mickelson said.

China?

Mickelson is a two-time win-

ner at Sheshan International, but he has played the HSBC Champions only once in the last four years. Why now? One reason—perhaps the only reason—is because the World Golf Championship in Shanghai is the only tournament in the fall that offers Ryder Cup points.

This is one team Mickelson doesn't want to miss.

He turns 48 next year and is still trying to manage psoriatic arthritis, which affected his energy and focus this year. Mickelson realizes his time is running out as a player in the Ryder Cup. He has played on three winning teams, all in America.

Next year's matches are in

France. This might be Mickelson's last chance to win a Ryder Cup in Europe.

"That's the one thing I haven't done," he said in Chicago.

And the opportunity has never looked better.

The Americans suddenly look a lot like Europeans when only a gold trophy, not cash, is on the line. They have developed a formula of familiarity, and they have relationships that go beyond the team room. Not even Europe had that. Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas and Daniel Berger grew up together in junior golf and graduated high school the same year. Thomas lives down

the street from Rickie Fowler.

"You look at the camaraderie of the young players and how they support each other, even outside of these team events," Mickelson said. "They have a support system where they love competing against each other, love beating each other, but are genuinely happy for each other's success. And that leads to a very positive, uplifting energy in the team room."

"And I think that these young guys ... really lay a solid foundation for the U.S. teams."

The performance in the Presidents Cup—a 19-11 victory, a beating so thorough the Americans were one match away from ending it on Saturday—made it tempting to look

ahead one year to the Ryder Cup with the belief it will turn out the same way.

If the Europeans were watching, should they be nervous?

"It's more confidence for us than anything they would be worried about," Spieth said.

That alone might be enough to worry.

The Americans have figured something out, and Mickelson was behind that, too.

He's the one who put his image on the line at Gleneagles after the 2014 Ryder Cup with his passive-aggressive criticism of the way Tom Watson ran the team and his incredulous tone when asking why the Americans got away from what had worked for them in Valhalla when they won in 2008.

MP United beats Paire in boys U14 game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Football Club defeated Paire, 4-1, in one of the boys U14 division games in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

MP United got the victory despite a scoreless first half, which ended with Paire still ahead, 1-0. Jon Villagomez gave Paire the shaky lead with his goal in the 23rd minute.

Paire eventually lost the upper hand in the second half, as MP United got its offense going.

Richard Steele broke MP United's silence with his shot in the 39th minute, while Rohan Basnet put their team on top with this goal nine minutes later. Rintaro Miyawaki made it three in row for MP United, as he found the back of the net in the 60th minute, while Jason Quimson closed out for the squad in the 66th.



In the first boys tiff last week-end, Matansa edged Kanoa FC, 2-1.

John Edward Fabia put Matansa on the board with his goal in the 39th minute, while Elijah Villarmero drilled the insurance in the 57th. Jhoey Noble scored the lone goal for Kanoa in the 68th minute.

In the second game Shirley's FC and TanHoldings engaged in a draw, 1-1.

Rakib Hassan delivered the goal for Shirley's in the 38th

minute, but his team failed to stay on top, as five minutes later Luis Claridades hit the equalizer for TanHoldings.

Meanwhile, Shirley's and

TanHoldings will try to get the win that eluded them last weekend as they take on separate opponents this Saturday. TanHoldings will duel Paire in

the first match at 1pm, while Shirley's will play Matansa in the last game at 4pm. In the second match at 2:30pm, MP United will face Kanoa.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United FC's Rintaro Miyawaki, left, and Paire's Miles Timmons, right, collide as they battle for the ball during the second half of their boys U14 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

MBC-bound team meeting on Monday

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Saipan Baseball League official Tony Rogolifoi is calling members of the CNMI team that were supposed to compete in the 2nd Micronesian Baseball Classic to attend a meeting on Monday, 5:30pm, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

They will discuss the upcoming tournament that will be hosted by Guam from Nov. 14 to 20. The team was supposed to go to Palau, which was the original host, but its preparations were halted after the original host pulled out. Palau begged off from hosting the second edition of the World Baseball Classic-inspired tournament as the

Asahi ballfield in Koror is being renovated and repairs will not be completed in time for the planned October opening. Guam assumed the hosting duties with the games to be played at the Paseo Stadium.

"These are members that were supposed to go to Palau and did not pull out from the team. The tournament is next month so we need to discuss how we could move forward and start fundraising too," said Rogolifoi.

"It would be harder for the teams since the tournament is close to the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap this July. I'm asking the players to attend the meeting or I would get new ones who are playing in the ongoing Under-25 league."

The CNMI is the defending MBC champion after making a

huge comeback to beat Guam, 15-14, in extra innings during last year's finale. Guam hosting the tournament this year would make things more exciting as they are looking for some pay-back after the sorry loss.

Henry Lizama Jr., Ben Jones Jr., Lamarc Iguel, Anthony Tenorio, Tyrone Omar, Joe Palacios, Giovanni Mira, Nathan Guerrero, Manny Cabrera, M.J. Sakisat, Richard Atalig Jr., Virgil Secharmidal, Angel Palacios, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Jesus Iguel, Jesse Brel, Ian Norita, and Jobe Reyes were the members of the then Palau-bound squad. Changes are expected to be made from the initial roster as most of the players have either school or work commitments and would not be able to make it to the weeklong tournament in Guam.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI All-Stars' Brian Camacho waits for the pitch during their title match against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic held last year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CAROL

From Page 28

ing, it will be an all-Chinese affair with No. 1 Jiaqi Wang taking on No. 6 Yijiao Chen. Wang has yet to drop a single set in the tournament, securing a semis spot at the upper half of the draw after sweeping No. 5 Ciara Di Tommaso of Australia. Che duplicated Wang's perfect record going into the semifinals and set

up a duel with her compatriot after ousting No. 4 and Kazakhstan's Anastassiya Astakhova in the quarterfinals, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

Meanwhile, in the doubles event, Lee, who is teaming up with Di Tommaso, was gunning for a semis ticket. The CNMI-Australian pair was scheduled to challenge Japan's Akari Miyazaki and Yuki Sakurai in the Round of 8 match yesterday, but results of

their game were unavailable at press time. The No. 2 seed Lee and Di Tommaso made it to the quarterfinals after outclassing Malaysia's Chloe Jing and Hannah Yip, 6-2, 6-0.

The 15-year-old Lee is competing in Malaysia as part of the Asian Tennis Federation Touring Team. After this weekend's event, she has one more tournament in Malaysia before heading to Thailand for two more competitions.

V-GOD

From Page 28

3 markers in V-God's title-clinching victory in the boys U19 division. Dustin Sablan led Typhoon's losing cause after logging 5 points, while Earl Borja and Juanis King chipped in 2 and 1, respectively.

Typhoon moved into the finals following a 22-6 demolition of Team Luta in the semis. As expected, Sablan starred in Typhoon's Final Four win after sizzling for 13 points. Bradley Lizama added 5, while King and Borja had 2 markers apiece. Team Luta drew 3 points from Noah Mendiola, while Mark Men-

diola had a 2-point basket, and Crisler Mendiola knocked in the other field goal for the losing squad.

In the other Final Four pairing, V-God slipped past familiar rival Big B's, 19-14, to notch the second finals ticket in the division.

Blake towered above Big B's players and scored a bundle inside the paint to finish with a game-high 9 points. Castro backed him up, contributing 8, while Bondoc registered 2 points. Angelo Factor posted 6 points for Big B's, while Christian Arceo recorded 4, and Jelbert Quitugua and Aaron Ogumoro had 2 apiece.

In the women's open divi-

sion finals, Fab IV downed CTSI, 14-8.

Sisters Anna Lei and Eleina Santos made things happen for Fab IV as they combined for all but one of the winning squad's production. Anna Lei scored 7 points, while Eleina logged 6. Halle Kenty drilled the other point for Fab IV, which also ruled the Saipan leg of the tournament after beating HiDaze in last month's finals.

CTSI foiled a Fab IV-HiDaze title rematch after prevailing against the latter in the first semis game, 15-13. Fab IV, on the other hand, earned a return trip to the finals after eliminating Blue Babes, 12-8.

REPAIRS

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Athletics Championships] next year, so we need to prepare the facility," the NMSA official said.

He added that the plan is to level the field since it is uneven and plant a new type of grass. Although, the grass is not the same as the one used internationally, it is better than the old one.

"We really need to level the entire field and change the grass to be perfect for games and other use. We need to do

this so that sports teams, local and visiting, could start using it. The 2020 Olympics is in Tokyo and foreign teams could train here," said Rogolifoi.

The project would last for more than a month and will be done as NMSA waits for the Level II certification of the track facility from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

"We still have to wait for one more month to get the certification. I think the project would be done by December. We're going to meet with all federations that want to use

the field before we open the facility," said Rogolifoi.

"We're going to impose some charges, but only minimal fees to help us with the maintenance and other repairs that need to be done once it is again open to the public. The fees are reasonable," he added.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, the Northern Marianas Rugby Union, and a group of frisbee players are among those who want to use the field. The fees will be much lower for sports federations that are NMSA members.

3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tinian Sports Association Typhoon's Rita King, third left, is hemmed in by Lady Ol'Aces defenders during their girls U16 title game in the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Lady Ol'Aces' Desrei Camacho, center, drives against Typhoon's Sophia Cruz.



Typhoon's Lisa Nicole Clamor, center, pulls up for a shot against two Lady Ol'Aces defenders.



Typhoon's Sophia Cruz unloads a shot against two Lady Ol'Aces defenders.



Boonkgang's Paulo Cadag, left, is forced to pass the ball as he faces two Typhoon defenders.



Boonkgang's Adonis Favor, center, looks at the referee as he is forced to a held ball by Typhoon's Jared King.



Typhoon's Tyler Santos, second left, is fouled by Boonkgang's Adonis Favor, left.



Typhoon's Jared King throws up a shot in front of two Boonkgang defenders.



Bullpen,
homers lift
Yankees past
Twins

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Carmelo sharp
in OKC debut,
but Rockets
still win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol enters Final Four

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

World No. 220 Carol Lee is two steps away from bagging another ITF Juniors crown after she qualified in the semifinals of the 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017.



Lee, who swept Poland's Natalia Michta in her opening game last Monday, eliminated two more opponents to make it to the Final Four of the tournament being played at the Tuanku Syed Putra Tennis Complex in Kangar, Perlis in Malaysia. The CNMI junior player got her second victory last Tuesday when she dominated the Philippines' Melanie Faye Dizon, 6-2, 6-0. Then for her third triumph, the No. 2 seed Lee was pitted against Malaysia's Elsa Wan and needed three sets to pull off the win and advance to the semifinals. Lee prevailed against Wan in the first set, 6-4, but failed to close out the match early when the Malaysian eked out a 7-5 victory in the second. Then in the deciding third set, Lee and Wan went back and forth, but the Commonwealth player proved to be steadier in the homestretch, escaping



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee, seen here preparing to serve during a local tournament last year, made it to the semifinals of the singles event of the 1st ITF Perlis Junior Championship 2017 in Malaysia.

with another tough win, 7-5.

Lee, who owns two singles and two doubles ITF Juniors titles, booked one of the semis berth at the lower half of the 32-player draw and will face

No. 3 seed and China's Zheng Hua Xiao today for a finals ticket in the Grade 4 tournament. Xiao made it to the semis after beating Malaysia's Nil Farah Fahrol Rodzi, 6-0,

6-0; Japan's Nanami Saito, 6-4, 6-1; and South Korea's Chae Hyun Sim, 6-3, 6-3.

In the other Final Four pair-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

V-God's Franko Bondoc drives strong to the basket during their elimination round game against the Warriors in the boys U19 division of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

V-God, Fab IV stand out anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

V-God and Fab IV asserted their might in the boys U19 and women's open divisions of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 after prevailing in their respective title matches last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



V-God, which topped the Saipan leg of the tournament after defeating Big B's, this time was paired against the visiting Tinian Sports Association Typhoon and won anew in the competition finale, 11-8. Jeffrey Castro and Dean Blake scored 4 points apiece, while Franco Bondoc made

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Repairs at Oleai field to begin soon

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A government agency and a private company will help the Northern Marianas Sports Association in repairing the field at the Oleai Sports Complex.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo said that

the Division of Agriculture of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources

will provide equipment (tiller), while the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort will have their groundskeeper crew work on the field, including the lay-

ing out of new grass.

"It is better for the government and private sector to join hands in helping us with the repairs and maintenance of our sports facilities, especially here at the sports complex. Laolao's grounds crew



is among the best on the island," Rogolifo told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The sports complex will be the center of activity in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and we really need to fix things here especially at the track. There's also the [Micronesian

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JON PEREZ

The Oleai Sports Complex field will undergo repairs to prepare the facility for the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and other regional competitions.